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**SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY
TIRUPATI**

**A SHORT HISTORY
OF
Sanskrit Literature**

WITH

*APPENDICES DESCRIPTIVE OF THE INTERPRETATION
OF THE VEDAS AND RELIGIOUS SECTS*

SECOND EDITION

(Revised and Enlarged)

By

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PREFACE

The present volume is an attempt to meet the wants of the readers of the history of Sanskrit literature, so far as this is feasible under existing circumstances. It is intended to form an introduction to Sanskrit literature, which is so vast in quantity and which embraces all departments of human knowledge with the possible exception of history in its modern sense. The Indian mind seems to have always been naturally careless of noting and recording those facts and occurrences that constitute history, and thus great uncertainty prevails in the chronology of historical literature. The great mass of Sanskrit literature is in metre, even works on science and law having a poetical form. Most of it was written after the language had ceased to be spoken in the fullest sense.

The Vedas are the oldest literary monuments, by far the oldest of which the Indo-European family can boast. They are looked upon as the source of all the *Śāstras* or sacred lore of the Hindus. The *Purāṇas* form another important department of the religious literature, but are very much later than the Vedas. It is pretty certain that epic compositions existed in Vedic times, and truly some of the Vedic hymns themselves may be called epic in the broad sense of the term, the *Rāmāyaṇa* and the *Mahābhārata* are certainly post-Vedic. The Hindus are perhaps the only people of the East among whom dramatic poetry had sprung up as a native growth, but it did not arise among them from the lyric, as it did among the Greeks, but directly from their epic poetry.

The Sanskrit poetic tales and fables have exercised a most important influence on the whole literature of the East, and even on that of the Western middle ages.

The scientific literature of India is likewise large. The first place is due to the grammatical works, which are very thorough. Indian grammarians having carried phonetic and etymological analysis farther than it has been carried except by modern European science. In philosophy, too the Hindus have produced some remarkable works, the beginnings of philosophical speculation going back to a very high antiquity. The history of Sanskrit literature is yet to be written. My humble endeavour has been in this small volume to bring out the nucleus of its history. The difficulties of beginners are manifold, to smooth their path a little and to show them the way to study the history of Sanskrit literature no pains have been spared.

It will perhaps not be amiss to remind Western scholars who are sometimes apt to judge us harshly, of Goethe's saying — *Fines Schicht Sich nicht für alle* ! what is best for the West need not be so for the East, and even the ideally best may need considerable modifications to meet existing circumstances.

For want of revision some of its defects could not have been mended. If the students for whom it is intended accord favourable reception to the present work and if the work can commend itself as a practical aid to them it is hoped that the whole book will be entirely recast in the next edition.

My thanks are due to my friends and colleagues for their valuable suggestions and corrections while the book was going through the press and specially to Pandit Amūlya Charan Vidyābhūṣana for his reading the book through the press, lending to me some rare books, revising the manuscripts and helping me in various other ways. Above all, my heartfelt gratitude is due to the authors of the following books

which were mainly consulted during the preparation of the work

History of Sanskrit Literature—A A Macdonell
Vedic Mythology—A A Macdonell History of Sanskrit
Literature—Weber A Hand Book of Sanskrit Literature—
G Small. Asiatic Researches—Vols XV XVI Philo-
sophy of Vedanta—Priya Nath Sen. A Comprehensive
History of the Religion of the Hindus—Dhirendra Nath Pal
Ancient and Modern History of India—R C Datta
Ancient History of India—Max Muller Buddhist India—
Rhys Davids History of Vedic Literature—T N Bhatta-
charya Religion of the Veda—Bloomfield. The Vedas
The Visnu, Vāyu and Bhāgavata Purānas —&c &c.

पूर्णमदं पूर्णमिदं पूर्णत पूर्णमुदच्यते ।

ॐस्व पूर्णमादाय पूर्णमेवावशिष्यते ।

Calcutta

श्रीशान्ति श्रीशान्ति श्रीशान्तिः।

1919

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The book has been thoroughly revised. Some portions have been rewritten and many new things have been introduced. To speak the truth it is a new work. Though the present book has attained more than double of its former volume, yet in consideration of the present economic depression of the country the price of the book has been raised only nominally.

In preparing this edition I have consulted specially the works of Messrs Winternitz, Kieth, Weber, K. M. Banerjee, R. L. Mitra, J. C. Bhaumik and others, besides many original works. My thanks are due to these authors. Besides, I am greatly indebted to my friend and colleague Prof. J. M. Ghosh, M. A. for his valuable suggestions, correction of manuscripts and reading the entire book while going through the press. My thanks are also due to my colleague S. J. P. K. Mukherjee, M. A. P. R. S. for his kindly preparing the Index. My thankfulness is none the less to Anantabandhu Das B. A. who has helped me in various ways in the preparation of the book.

I shall deem my labour amply rewarded if the students for whom it is chiefly intended, derive even the slightest help from its perusal. I shall ever remain grateful to those generous readers who would kindly point out to me the errors and defects which have crept into the work and offer kind suggestions for its future improvement.

Calcutta

AUTHOR

30th. Aug. 1936.

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INTRODUCTION

The oldest as well as the most monumental work of the Aryan race is the Veda. This work has a twofold interest. It reveals not only the history of the Indians, but of the whole human race. In times out of mind, when most peoples of the world were steeped in the darkness of ignorance, the serene light of Vedic civilisation shone bright in the orient. But the Veda is not only the history of the ancient world, but also it is a compendium and digest of all branches of knowledge. We get in it a vivid and systematic account of the growth and development of religion, society and politics.

The Veda-
its anti-
quity and
scope

Most Hindus believe that the hymns of the Veda were revealed at different times to different groups of Brāhmanas of great intellectual and imaginative power. These hymns, when collected and arranged, took the shape of Samhitā. In course of time, when the Veda became of huge size, unwieldy and difficult to master, there arose the necessity of dividing and arranging it in a compendious form. The priests

A1.

Vedic
Samhitā

Divisions
of the
Veda

engaged by yajamānas to perform their sacrificial rites divided the veda amongst themselves and took charge of the different portions dealing with different ceremonies, which, by degrees, grew massive and multifarious. It is held that the whole mass was subsequently divided into four parts in which form it is found at present and since then the four parts have come to be known as the *R̥g*, *Yajur*, *Sāma* and *Atharva* vedas. Accounts of this division are given in the *Vāyu*, *Viṣṇu*, *Bhāgavata* and other Purāṇas ¹

1 द्वापरे तु पुरावृत्ते मनो स्वायम्भुवेऽन्तरे ।

ब्रह्मा मनुमुवाचेद वेद व्यस्य (तद्वद्व्ये) महामते ।

एवमुक्तस्तथेत्युक्त्वा मनुर्लोकहिते रत ।

वेदमेक चतुष्पाद चतुर्धा व्यभजत् प्रभु ।

अस्मिन् युगे कृतो व्यास पाराशर्य्य परन्तप ।

ब्रह्मणा चोदित सोऽस्मिन् वेद व्यस्तु प्रचक्रमे ॥

वायु ६०१२, ८, ११, १२ ।

ततोऽत्र मत्सुतोव्यासोऽष्टादिशक्तिमेऽन्तरे ।

वेदमेकं चतुष्पाद चतुर्धा व्यभजत् प्रभु ॥ विष्णु ३।४।२

एक आसीद् यजुर्वेदस्तं चतुर्धा व्यकल्पयत् ।

चतुर्होत्रमभूद्यस्मि स्तेनयज्ञमथाकरोत् ॥ विष्णु ३।४।११

सोयमेको महावेदतस्तस्तेन पृथक् कृतः ।

चतुर्धा तु ततो जात वेदपादपकाननम् ॥ विष्णु ३।४।१५

द्वापरे समनुप्राप्ते तृतीययुगपर्य्यये

जातः पराशरात् योगी वासव्यान् कलया हरेः ।

The orthodox view is that previous to the present division, in former time also the Veda was similarly divided by different Vyāsas at different times and finally by Kṛṣṇa Dvāpāyana Vyāsa after the end of last Dvāpara yuga (28th Dvāpara yuga of the seventh manvantara)¹ The Mahābhārata also supports this view and holds that it was Kṛṣṇa Dvāpāyana Vyāsa who divided and arranged the undivided Veda into its four usual parts and hence his name Vyāsa² Mahādhara, too, in his comment on the *Śukla Yajurveda* has taken this Paurāṇic account to be true³

Orthodox
view of
Vedic
division.

Evidence
of
literature

चातुर्होत्रं कर्मशुद्धं प्रजानां बोध्यं वैदिकम् ।

व्यदधात् यज्ञसन्तत्ये वेदमेकं चतुर्विधम् ।

ऋग्यजुःसामार्थवर्णित्या. वेदाश्चत्वारउद्धृता ॥

भागवत १।४, १४, १६—२०।

पराशरात् सत्यवत्यामशांशकलया विभु ।

अवतीर्णो महाभागोवेदं चक्रे चतुर्विधम् ॥

ऋगथर्वयजुः सामान् राशीरुद्धृत्य वर्गाशः ।

चतस्रः सहिताश्चक्रे मन्त्रैर्मणिगणा इव ॥ भागवत १२।६।४६-५० ।

¹ See "Division of the Veda by Vyāsas"

² विद्यासैकं चतुर्धा यो वेद वेदविदां वर । महा १।६०।५॥

³ तत्रादौ ब्रह्मपरम्परया प्राप्तं वेदं वेदव्यासो मन्दमतीन् मनुष्यान् विचिन्त्य तत्कृपया चतुर्धा व्यस्य ऋग्यजुःसामार्थवर्णित्यांश्चतुरोवेदान् पैल-वेशम्पायन-जैमिनि-छमन्तुभ्यः क्रमादुपदिदेश । ते च स्वशिष्येभ्यः ; एवं परम्परया सहस्रशालो वेदो जातः ।

The origin
of the
Vedas
according
to Samhitā
and other
texts

Sāma and
Chandah

The Rgveda itself gives an account of the origin of the three Vedas—*Rk*, *Yajuh*, and *Sāma*—in the celebrated Purusa Sūkta (X 90 9), which runs thus—From that Great God, revered and worshipped by all, sprang the *Rks* and *Sāmans*, from Him came *Chandas* and *Yajuh* originated from Him¹ Having seen सामानि and छन्दांसि in the same verse Sāyanācārya has taken the latter as Vedic metres But I think this verse has no connection with metre, it simply speaks of the origin of the Vedas. छन्दांसि here is Sāma Veda, while सामानि refers to the verses of the Rgveda that may be put to tune This is corroborated by the following facts There are, as we find in the Rk, three finite verbs each being connected with a particular Veda That here and there in the Rgveda there are verses speaking of Samans². Certain it is that these do not refer to the Sāma Veda, as I have stated above, but to the verses that were sung by the Udgātā This Rk corroborates also the idea of the unity of the Veda But unfortunately the word साम led Mr Weber and some other scholars to jump to the conclusion that the Sāma Veda was prior to the Rgveda as

¹ तस्माद् यज्ञात् सर्व्वहुत ऋच सामानि जज्ञिरे ।

छन्दांसि जज्ञिरे तस्माद् यजुस्तस्मादजायत ॥ R.V. १०।६०।६।

² Rgveda 2 43 1 2, 5. 44 14 15, 8 38. 10, 10. 85 6 11, etc.

the latter is quoted by the former. The text of the *Chāndogyaopanīśad* runs thus—
 Rk from Agni, Yajuh from Vāyu and Sāma from Sūrya. Of the three *Vyāhrtis* *Bhukh* from the Rks, *Bhubah* from the *Yajūh* and and *Svar* from the Sāma¹.
 Manus also corroborates the text of the *Chāndogyaopanīśad* in the first Chapter of his *Samhitā*².
 This passage and a few other similar passages in the *Upanīśads* and *Purāṇas* have made some scholars think that the *Atharvaveda* originated long after the other three Vedas, nay, they have gone further and held that the fourth Veda, because of its new subject matter, such as, अभिचारक्रिया etc., was not recognised at first as a Veda. According to them the 'crafty' Brāhmanas added a few hymns necessary for sacrifices and thus raised it to the status of the Vedas. This view is entirely untenable as the name of the *Atharva Veda* is found in many of the authoritative *Upanīśads*³. The name of the sage Atharvā

Atharva
 Veda and
 its relation
 with other
 Vedas.

¹ अग्ने ऋचो वायोर्यजूंसि सामान्यादित्यात्. भूरिति ऋग्भ्यः भुवरिति यजुर्भ्यः स्वरिति सामभ्यः । छान्दोग्य ४।१७।२-३।

² अग्निवायुरविभ्यस्तु त्रयं ब्रह्म सनातनम् ।

तुदोहं यज्ञसिद्धयर्थमृग्यजुः सामलक्षणम् ॥ १।२।२।

³ अस्य महतो भूतस्य निश्चितमेतत् ऋग्वेदो यजुर्वेदः सामवेदोऽथर्वान्जिरसः—बृहदारण्यक २।४।१० and also ४।१।२, ४।५।११ ।

The word
त्रयी-
its expla-
nation

Principal
priests of
the Vedas

as well as of priests called Atharvā or Brahmā is found in the very body of the Vedas. It was this old sage who first performed sacrificial rites and produced fire¹. But we must try to find out why the name of Atharva Veda is excluded from the term त्रयी or the *Three*, which was the comprehensive name of the Vedas. It is still a matter of altercation as to its meaning. Some take it to mean the three Vedas—the Rk, the Yajuh and the Sāma, while others offer various explanations of the term. The hymns of the Vedas show clearly that sacrificial ceremonies had attained to their perfection during the Vedic ages. They also point out that the four Vedas—Rk, Yajuh, Sāma and Atharvā—have each a principal priest, the Hotā, Adhvaryu, Udgātā and Brahmā. Of these four priests the Hotā has to recite the incantations of the

स होवाच ऋग्वेदं भगवोऽश्वेमि यजुर्वेदं सामवेदमाथर्वणं चतुर्थम्
.. छान्दोग्य-७।१।२ and also ३।४।१, ४।१६।२, ७।७।१।

तत्रापरा ऋग्वेदो यजुर्वेदं सामवेदोऽथर्ववेदः—मुण्डक १।१।५

यजुर्मुक् सामादेशोऽथर्वान्निरस . तैत्तिरीयब्रह्मानन्दब्रह्मी दशमोऽ-
नुवाकः ।

¹ यामथर्वान्मनुष्पिता दध्यङ् दियमतस्तत—Rgvoda, 1 80 16.

यज्ञैरथर्वा प्रथमं पथस्तते—Rgvoda 1 83 5

त्वामङ्गे पुष्करा दध्यथर्वा निरमन्थत—Samveda 1. 1 1 9

In this connection see also Vajasaneyī samhita 5 16 14, 10 21 5 etc.

Rgveda , the Adhvaryu to perform rites in accordance with the formula of the Yajurveda , the Udgātā to chant Sāmans , but Bṛāhmā, the priest of the Atharva-Veda, has got for his duty to observe and examine the procedures of other priests and to remove their errors and shortcomings. And thus we find that he was required to be versed in all the three Vedas¹. It is clear from this that in respect of sacrifice the Atharvaveda has no separate existence of its own but is a sort of auxiliary to the other three Vedas. This fact according to many celebrated Vedic scholars accounts for its exclusion from the group of the Vedas collectively designated as Trayī. In the opinion of some the undivided Veda was a mixture or combination of three distinct elements—poetry, prose and songs and hence the name *Trayī*. In the opinion of others again the Vedas go by the name of *Trayī* inasmuch as they contain the three great principles or ideals of human life—action, worship and knowledge.

Functions
of different
priests

¹ ऋग्वेदेन होता करोति सामवेदेनोद्गाता यजुर्वेदेनाध्वर्युः सर्व्वे-
र्ब्रह्मा । यद् ऋचैर्वहोत्रं क्रियते यजुषाध्वर्य्यं च साम्नोद्गोथं व्याख्यात्रयी-
विद्याभवति । अथ केन ब्रह्मत्वं क्रियते इति त्रय्याविद्येतिब्रूयात् । ऐतवेय-
ब्राह्मण ५।३३ ।

Age of the Veda

Weber's
view

It would be at best idle speculation to try to establish the age of the Vedic hymns. Though the researches of the last fifty years have thrown a flood of light on the misty far-off dawn of Vedic civilisation, the light is but a faint gleam and the cloud of doubt still lingers upon the vexed question of its chronology. Weber rightly says in his History of Indian Literature that to seek for an exact date is fruitless labour¹ In his Gifford Lectures on Physical Religion (1890), Prof Max Muller (who formerly held that the date of the Samhita or chandah period was about 1200 to 1000 B C) says, "We cannot hope to find the date when the earliest Vedic hymns began to be composed Whether they were composed 1000 or 1500 or 2000 or 2500 B.C no power on earth will ever determine."

Maxmuller's
view

Ortho
dox view.

According to orthodox view the hymns of the Vedas are a direct revelation from God to the seers of old, and these seers

¹ .When we come to look for definite chronological dates. We must reconcile ourselves to the fact that any such research, as a general rule, would be absolutely fruitless

acted only as the medium of communication but were in no sense the authors of the same¹ The scholiast (सारणाचार्य) also salutes Siva at the outset of his commentary thus—I bow down to Maheśvara, the savent of learning, whose breath was the Vedas and from which proceeded the whole universe³ But from a comparative study of numerous passages in the Veda as well as some passages of the Nirukta and Anukramanī of the Rgveda there remains little doubt that the hymns of the Vedas were compsed by the sages at different periods of time³ Having examined these

Vedic hymns collected at different periods of time.

Veda—the revealed truth.

1 ऋषयः मन्त्रद्वष्टार. नतु वेदस्य कर्तार. ।

न कश्चित्तु वेदकर्त्ता वेदस्मर्त्ताचतुर्मुख —पराशरसहिता १२०।

तेने ब्रह्महृदा य आदिकवये मुह्यन्ति यत् छरय । भागवत १।१।

वेदो हरेर्वाक् सार्वत्री वेदमाताप्रतिष्ठिता । कल्किपुराण २।३।

अजान् हवे पृथ्वी स्तपस्यमानान् ब्रह्मस्वयम्भ्वभ्यानर्षत्तदृषयोऽभवन्निति-
युगान्तेऽन्तर्हितान् वेदान् सेतिहासान्महर्षयः । लोभिरे तपसा पूव
मनुज्ञातास्वयम्भुवा ॥

2 यस्य निःश्वसितं वेदा. यो वेदेभ्योऽखिलं जगत् ।

निर्ममि तमह बन्दे विद्यातीर्थ महेश्वरम् ॥

3 अग्नि. पूर्वर्षेभि ऋषिभिरीड्योन्नूतनैस्त—Rg Veda 1 1 2.

गोतमोइन्द्रनव्यमतज्ञत् ब्रह्म—Rg Veda 1 62 13 1 1 2,

1 27 4 etc

इय गीर्मान्दार्घ्यस्य—Rg Veda 1 166 15

ब्रह्माणि ससृजे वशिष्ठः—Rg. Veda 7 18 8.

Opinion of
some Indian
and
European
scholars

two conflicting statements it may be concluded that the truth underlying the hymn was revealed to the seers who then composed in their own way these verses and utilised them in some particular sacrifices. Among Indian scholars of modern times some echo the opinions of western scholars, while others say that the age of Vedic literature should, at least, go back to about two lacs of years'. The accepted opinion is that the hymns of the Vedas go back to about 3000 B C, but some scholars are inclined rather to push back the date as B C 3500. Schroeder in his '*Indian Literature and Culture*' suggests that the superior limit may be a few centuries earlier than 1500 B C, while Whitney, Grassmann, and Benfey provisionally assume 2000 B C. as the starting point of Hindu literature.

ब्रह्माणि जनयन्त विप्राः—Rk 7 22 9 etc

यत्र ऋषयोजगमुः प्रथमा पुराणाः—वाजसनेयीसंहिता १८।१५ ।

यत्काम ऋषिर्यस्यां देवतायां अर्थापत्यमिच्छन् स्तुतिं प्रयुङ्क्ते तत्तदेवतः
स मन्त्रोभवति—निरुक्त ८।१

यस्य वाक्यं स ऋषिः—सर्वानुक्रमणी ४ ।

अर्थेऽस्य ऋषयः देवताश्छन्दोभिरभ्यधावन्—ऋग्वेदानुक्रमणी ७ ।

Amongst these scholars the names of Pandit Umeśa Chandra Vidyārātṇa and Prof Avinēśa Chandra Das may be mentioned.

The lower possible limit for this event Muller now places at about 1500 B C , but this is not recognised by other scholars. Brunhofer more recently has suggested 2800 B C as the terminus, while the last writers on the subject Bāla Gangādhara Tilak and Prof H Jacobi claim to have discovered that the period from 6000 to 2500 B C., represents the age of the composition of the Vedic verses But their conclusions have been disputed by many orientalists

Both Bāla Gangādhara Tilak and H Jacobi started from astronomical datas found in Vedic literatures and came to the the above conclusion independent of each other They say that at the time of the Brāhmans the Krttikās coincided with the vernal equinox but in the Vedic times it is found that vernal equinox was on Mrgaśīrāḥ From astronomical calculations it is found that the vernal equinox fell on the Pleiades about 2500 B C and on the Orion about 4500 B C From this Tilak concluded that the Vedic text and Brāhmans were collected between 6000 and 2500 B C According to B G Tilak the oldest period in the Aryan civilization, which may be called the Aditi or the pre-Orion period, roughly extends from 6000 to 4000 B C In this period "the *finished* hymns do not seem

Bālagangā-
dhara
Tilak and
H Jacobi
on the age
of the Veda.

Pre-Orion period to have been known and half-prose and half-poetical Nivids or sacrificial formulae (giving the principal names, epithets, and feats of the deity invoked) were probably in use.

Orion period The second period, called the Orion period roughly speaking extended from 4000 B C to 2500 B C This was the most important period in the history of the Aryan civilization In this period a good many Sūktas in the Rgveda were composed and several legends were either formed anew or developed from the older ones The Greeks and the Parsis appear to have left their common home during the latter part of this period

Kṛttika period The third or the Kṛttika period extends from 2500 B C to 1400 B C In this period the Taittirīya Samhitā and several other Brāhmanas were composed The hymns of the Rgveda had already become antique and unintelligible and the Brahminavadins indulged in speculations

Sūtra period The fourth and the last period of the old Sanskrit literature extends from 1400 B C. to 500 B C It was the period of Sūtras and philosophical systems. It is the real pre-Buddhistic period (vide Orion pp. 206-8).

But H Jacobi, in his own way, arrives at the conclusion that the Vedic texts were composed about 4500 B C and extended to 2500 B C. He was confirmed by another astronomical consideration. It is found in the Grhya Sūtras that the bride and the bride-groom had to sit upon a bull's hide after reaching their new home till the stars were visible. The bride-groom had to point out the polar star (Dhruva) to the bride and ask her to be as strong as the star in conjugal fidelity. In 2780 B C the star *Dhruva* was near the pole. The wedding hymn of the Rgveda (X 35) does not mention this custom. So Jacobi supposes this custom to be post-Vedic. Thus in his opinion the Rgvedic period lies before 2780 B C.

H Jacobi
on the age
of the Veda

Mr D. N. Mukhopaddhyāya in an article—The Hindu Nakshatras—has recently proved from astronomical data that the first three Vedic strata extend respectively from 16000 to 14500 B C, from 14500 to 13000 B C and from 13000 to 11600 B C. Besides, he has given two other strata covering the periods 11600—9600 B C, and 9600—6600 B C respectively. The opinion of these oriental scholars has been criticized by European scholars but the argument advanced for the purpose are not at all satisfactory.

D N.
Mukhopā-
dhyāya on
the point.

Opinion of
Kāmesvar
Aiyar

Lately B V Kāmeśvar Aiyar too has proved from astronomical datas that the Brāhmans belong to a period of 2300 to 2000 B C and this corresponds to the date fixed by B G Tilak

Winternitz

Prof Winternitz, on philological and historical grounds, believes that the date assumed by Tilak and Jacoby is nearer to the mark than that adopted by Maxmuller, Oldenberg, Macdonell and Keith.

Prof Thibaut

Prof Thibaut versed in oriental astronomy has warned us against such astronomical calculations regarding the date of the Vedas or any antiquarian researches, as the old Hindu year began in any season and any bright star served the purpose of the star *Dhruva*.

Ketkar's
view

V B Ketkar says that it is found in the Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa (III. 415) that there was an eclipse when the Jupiter covered the Pūṣyā star which occurred in 4660 B C and therefore the Rgvedic period must go before that time.

Paurāṇic
view

According to some scholars who base their calculations on the Purāṇas, the war of Kuruksetra was fought in the year 1921 B C and the Vedas were divided and arranged before that time and hence the time of composition of the Vedic hymns does not

contradict the time given by H. Jacobi or B G Tilak

The recent excavation of Mahendra-dvar (Mohenjo Daro) in Sind and the cuneiform inscriptions describing the civilisation of Assyria, Babylonia, Sumeria and the valleys of the modern Tigris and Euphratis point to the same conclusion

Mohenjo
Daro.

The discoveries made by Hugo Wintler in Boghazkoi in Asia Minor in 1907 throw some light on the Vedic age. It is seen in some clay tablets found there that contracts were concluded between the King of the Hittites (14th Cn. B C) and the king of Mittani. Some Babylonian and native deities are invoked there as protectors of these contracts. Among which the name of Mi-ti-ra, U-ra-w na, In-dar, Na-sa-a (t-ti-ia-a) n-na, corresponding to the Vedic gods Mitra, Varuna, Indra and Nāsatya are important. According to the historian Edward Meyer, this refers to the period when Indian and Iranian branches of Aryans formed but one people. But Oldernberg and Keith looked upon these names as those of an old Iranian people, closely related to the Vedic Indians. Leaving aside the conjectures of these two scholars it can boldly be said that the discovery is not very valuable as to the age of the Vedas

Hugo
Wintler.

It is admitted, on all hands, both by oriental and occidental scholars that the whole Vedic literature is pre-Buddhistic and hence existed before 600 B C

Antiquity
of Vedic
hymn from
internal
proofs

The antiquity of Vedic hymns is also seen from internal evidence. The language of the hymn, their versification and accentuation differing greatly from those of Brāhmans and classical literatures, are proofs of their antiquity. The geographical, social, political and economic conditions as reflected in the hymns of the Rgveda are quite different from those found in the Brāhmans and in the Samhitās of the Yajurveda. This fact also establishes their antiquity.

External
evidence.

The Vedic Concordance of M. Bloomfield and his Rgveda Repetitions make us believe that at the time when the bulk of the hymns were composed there existed already a great number of verses which were considered as a common property of all. The incidental references to some events in the hymns of the Rgveda too point to the above conclusion. There was a great gap between these verses and those of the samhitā. Besides it is proved from Inscriptions that in the 3rd century B C Southern India was already overrun by Aryan Indian, but Southern India had a civilization of its own.

which was in no way inferior to Aryan civilisation. The tale of Pururavāh and Urvasī in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa (VII. 13 18) and the glimpse of human sacrifice found in the legend of शुन श्लेष are important documents for Indian civilisation. It can safely be concluded that centuries must have passed between the composition of the Rgvedic hymns and the Brāhmans, Āraṇyakas and Upanisads. We reserve our opinion on the matter, and are content to say only that the hymns of the Vedas originated in the hoary age of antiquity.

Each Veda consists of two parts—the Mantra or Samhitā and the Brāhmaṇa or commentary,¹ explaining respectively the nature of धर्म and ब्रह्म.² The मन्त्रs are indicative of materials and deities ancillary to Vedic rites and rituals, while the Brāhmans contain in them the विधि, अर्थवाद and वाक्योवाक्य. There are four sorts of विधि—उत्पत्ति, अधिकार, विनियोग and प्रयोग. The first explains the nature of the rite, the second speaks of the result that would follow, the third shows the relation which the rite bears to its parts and the fourth

General
division
of the
Vedas.

Vidhi—its
Kinds.

¹ मन्त्रब्राह्मणयोर्वेदनामधेयम्—आपस्तम्ब यज्ञपरिभाषा ।

² From धर्म originated the Pūrva Mīmāṃsā and from ब्रह्म, the Uttara-Mīmāṃsā.

proves that all the above three converge to produce an undivided result. विधि is defined as one expressing things unknown (अज्ञातज्ञापको विधि.) अर्थवाद or eulogium either persuades a man to or dissuades him from his undertaking This again is divided under three heads—गुणवाद, अनुवाद and भूतार्थवाद गुणवाद prevails when a thing is contradicted by other evidences , अनुवाद only speaks of things established by other proofs and भूतार्थवाद comes in when there is neither agreement nor discord between the thing and the evidences ¹. वाकोवाक्य is sometimes called विधि as it expresses things unknown and sometimes भूतार्थवाद as it is self-evident truth without commendatory words The earlier chapters of the Brāhman explain the mode of ceremonials and some passages of the Vedic texts , the middle chapters treat of ceremonies not included in the Brāhman ; and the final chapters deal with theogonical thoughts and invocations to different deities These are respectively known as Brāhmaṇ proper, Āraṇyaka and Upaniṣd. According to orthodox views all these are *Śruti* or *what is heard*

Arthavāda—
its kinds

Vakovākya.

Arrange-
ment of
Brāhman

¹ विरोधे गुणवाद. स्यादनुवादोऽवधारिते ।

भूतार्थवादस्तद्भानादर्थवादस्त्रिधामतः ॥

For the collection and printing of the manuscript of the Vedas we are indebted very largely to European scholars. It was through their untiring zeal and energy that the Vedas were saved from the devastation of white ants, and the collection of Vedic manuscripts first saw the light. Without their help and labour these valuable works of the ancient Aryan would have survived only in name. Among ancient Europeans, one Robert de Nobilius, a Jesuit Missionary, first tried to collect the Vedas but was deceived by some clever pandit of Madras who composed a false *Bhurveda* and palmed it off on him. Voltaire sent it to the Royal Library of France under the wrong impression that it was really the Yajurveda. Then came Mr Colebrooke who also tried his best to collect the Vedas. But he also was deceived by a Mahratta Brāhmana and shared the same fate with his predecessor. At last, through the unwearied endeavour of Colonel Polier, the manuscripts of all the four Vedas were collected from Joypur and sent to the British Museum in 1789.

Collection
of Vedic
Manu-
scripts.

Before the 6th century B C the western world was almost in the dark in relation to the learning of the Indians, and it was only after Alexander's invasion that the

Discovery
of Sanskrit
in Europe

Greek, to a certain extent, came to be acquainted with Indian literature. The Arabs, in the Middle Ages, introduced this branch of Indian knowledge to Europe. From the 16th century onward a few western Christian Missionaries acquired some familiarity with this Indian branch of science. Abraham Roger, a Dutch missionary, translated the *Bhāṭṭikāvya*m into Dutch in 1651. He translated besides the proverbs of भट्टहरि into English. The name of the Jesuit father Johann Hanxleden should not be omitted here. He worked in the Mālabār mission and his "*Grammatica Granthamīa Seu Samscrdumica*" was the first Sanskrit grammar written by a European. It was never printed. Bartholomeo, who wrote two other Sanskrit grammars (1776-89), derived much help from the Sanskrit grammar of Johann Hanxleden.

Christian
missionaries'
works

The 18th
century and
its impor-
tance in the
West

The eighteenth century is a great epoch in the history of Sanskrit Literature. From this time onward many European scholars engaged themselves in the critical study and discussion of the Sanskrit language. These investigations and critical studies have resulted in two new branches of science, viz., Comparative Philology and Comparative Mythology and in the preparation of an Encyclopaedia covering the whole domain

of Indo-Aryan Philology and Archeology under the title "Grundriss der indo-arischen Philologie und Altertumskunde" This book was being published in parts by Prof Buhler of Vienna with the help of some thirty specialists of various nationalities at Straßburg After the death of Buhler the editorship fell on the shoulders of Kielhorn of Göttingen Now the book is being published under the editorship of Luders and Wackernagel

Then came Prof Rosen who published a few hymns of the Rgveda in 1830 in London. After his death, the first Astaka of the Rgveda with his Latin translation was published in Calcutta in 1838 This attracted much attention and led to the foundation of Vedic studies in France under the leadership of the great orientalist, Eugene Burnouf Rudolf Roth, his celebrated pupil, wrote a booklet "On the Literature and History of the Veda," which came out in 1846 The publication of the work popularised the study of the Vedas in Germany Some portions of this book were translated into English by Mr. Muir and published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society in 1847—48 On the motion of Mr. Lydley, the proposal of publishing this Bibliotheca Indica was

Editions of
the Vedas
and essays
thereon by
European
scholars,

accepted unanimously at a meeting of the 'Asiatic Society' in 1847. Dr. Roer accordingly published the first and second Astakas of the Rgveda with their English translation in 1847, but, on hearing that Prof Maxmüller was publishing the whole of the Rgveda with Sāyana's commentary and with Prof Wilson's English translation under the supervision and patronage of the East India Company, he gave up his endeavour. Prof Muller's Rgveda with introduction and word index came out in six parts between 1849—75. He published also the first Mandala of the Rgveda with the Padapāṭha between 1856—59 and the whole text of the Veda in Roman Character with his own Index in 1877. The Rgveda was in parts translated into French between 1848-51 by various scholars and wholly in 1870 by L. Langlois in Paris. Alfred Ludwig in 1876 and Hermann Grassmann in 1876—77 translated and published the whole of the Rgveda in the German language. Prof. Roth and Botthlingk published a Sanskrit-German Dictionary between 1853—75 in St Petersburg in seven folio volumes. It is indeed a brilliant monument to German industry. Dr Roth published also the Nirukta of Yāska between 1848—52.

Maxmüller's
edition of
the Rgveda
with
Wilson's
English
translation.

French
translation
of the
Rgveda

German
translation
of the
Rgveda

St Petersburg
Dictionary

with his own notes and commentary. Dr. Haug published the text of the *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa* in Roman Character in two parts in 1863. Mr Stenzler published the *Grhya Sūtra* of *Āsvalāyana* with German translation in 1864—65, and Prof. Hermann Oldenberg published the *Sāṅkhyāyana Grhya Sūtra* in Weber's *Indische Studien* with translations and notes that very year. Regnier, the French scholar, published the *Śaunaka Prātiśākhya* of the *Rgveda* with commentary and translation in 1857—58 in Paris Prof. Maxmüller published another edition of this book between 1856—69 with a German translation. Prof. Weber published the *Chandahsūtra* of *Pingala* in Roman character in 1863 in his *Indische Studien* and the *Pāṇinīya Śikṣā* in 1858 Rudolf Mayor published *Rgvidhāna* and *Brhaddevalū* in 1877 with his own introduction Dr. Fitz Edward Hall published a portion of the *Rāvana Bhāṣya* of the *Rgveda* in the *Asiatic Researches* of 1862. Besides, through the energy of a number of western scholars the *Sadvimśa Brāhmaṇa*, the *Sāmavidhāna Brāhmaṇa*, the *Kṛiṣṇa Yajurveda*, the *Śukla Yajurveda*, the *Atharva Veda*, the *Śārīraka Bhāṣya* of *Śaṅkarācārya* and several other important Upanisads have also been

Various other texts and translations published by various European scholars.

Miscellaneous
works in
English on
the Vedic
and classical
literatures
by various
Scholars

published They, from time to time, have moreover written a number of essays on Vedic and Paurāṇic literatures along with some important texts. Of these the Essays of Colebrooke, Maxmuller's Ancient Sanskrit Literature, Chips from a German Workshop, India and What It Can Teach us, Science of Language, Vedic Hymns in the 32nd and 40th Vols of the Sacred Series of the East, Six Systems of Hindu Philosophy, Macdonell's India's Past, the History of Sanskrit Literature, Vedic Grammar etc., Keith's Drama, the History of Sanskrit Literature, Aitareya Āraṇyaka; Macdonell and Keith's Vedic Index, Bloomfield's Vedic Concordance, Vedic Religion and Rgveda Repetition, Muir's Original Sanskrit Texts in five Vols, Sacred Series of the East in 49 Vols, under the general editorship of Maxmuller are very important. Mention should also be made here of T. Aufrecht's *Catalogus Catalogorum* containing catalogues of Sanskrit manuscripts of all important libraries of India and Europe, prof J. W. Rhys David's Pali Text Society and A. Weber's the Writing of the Jains which have rendered great help to the investigation of the Buddhistic and Jaina literatures.

PIONEERS OF SANSKRIT STUDIES.

The needs of practical administration stimulated the study of Sanskrit among Europeans in India. Warren Hastings, the then Governor-General of India, finding it advantageous to rule India through her own laws, caused a digest to be made by some pandits based on ancient legal authorities. At the expense of the East India Company this came out in 1776. The work is known as *Viñādārnavaśetu*. This deals specially with the Indian law of inheritance and family laws etc, under the caption "A Code of Gentoo Law." The book was translated into German and was published in Hamburg in 1778.

Study of
Sanskrit by
Europeans.

1. Charles Wilkins (afterwards sir Charles) was persuaded by Warren Hastings to learn Sanskrit in Benares and published a translation of the Bhagavad-gītā in 1785 and that of Hitopadeśa in 1787. The translation of the former was the first of its kind that was directly rendered into English, nay into European languages, from the original Sanskrit for the first time. In 1795 he translated Śakuntalā, an episode

of the Mahābhārta and in 1808 wrote a Sanskrit Grammar in which Sanskrit scripts were used for the first time in Europe

2 Sir William Jones (1746-94), the famous oriental scholar, founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784 for the propagation of Sanskrit studies and roused a keen interest in the study of Indian antiquity. He translated Kālidasa's Śakuntalam into English in 1789. This was rendered into German in 1791 by George Forster. This book in its new guise fascinated critics of such undoubted competence as Goethe and Herder.¹

“Wilt thou blossoms of spring and the fruits that are later in seasons?
Wilt thou have charms and delight, wilt thou have strength
and support?

Wilt thou with one short word encompass the earth and heaven?
All is said if I say only, Śakuntalā thee”—Goethe

“It is here that the mind and character of a nation is but brought to life before us, and gladly I admit that I have received a truer and more real notion of the manners of thinking among the ancient Indians from this one Śakuntalā than all their Upaniṣads and Bhāgavats”—Herder

George Forster's German translation of Śakuntalā roused enthusiasm among literary circle in Europe and it was looked upon as “a Wonder coming from the land of wonders”

In 1830 Chezy, the French editor of the text of Śakuntalā writes thus—“The First time when I became aware of this unfathomable work, it excited such an enthusiasm in me and attracted me so much that I never left off studying it and even felt myself urged on to the impossible task of adopting it, at least in some way, to the German stage”

In 1792 he translated *Rtusamhār* (Cycle of Seasons) with Sanskrit texts. It was followed by the translation of the Code of Manu in 1794

3. **Alexander Hamilton** was made a prisoner of war in France by the order of Napoleon on his way home to England from India. He was a great oriental scholar and taught Sanskrit to a few eminent men of letters from within the four walls of the prison. Among these scholars one was

4. **Friedrich Schlegel** He was a great German Romantic poet and published his work *Die Über Sprache Und Weisheit der Indier* (*On the Language and Wisdom of the Indians*) in 1808. He was a pioneer for the study of Sanskrit in Europe. He published the conjugation of Sanskrit verbs in 1816. He demonstrated herein the common origin of Indo-Aryan languages. From 1821 he was professor of oriental languages at Berlin. His great work—A comparative Grammar of Sanskrit, Greeks, Zend, Latin, Lithuanian, Old Slavonic, Gothic and German—was published in six volumes between 1833-52. It was translated into English by Eastwell. The publication of this book was a corner-stone in the foundation of the science of comparative

philology in the hand of Franz Bopp¹ and it fostered the study of Sanskrit in Germany. He translated the *Gītā* in Latin. This translation attracted the notice of Wilhelm von Humboldt who praised it as “the profoundest and the loftiest thing the world has ever seen.”

5 **Henry Thomas Colebrooke** (1765-1837), as has been said before, tried in vain to collect the manuscript of the Vedas. He was born in London in 1765. His legal functions led him to study Indian law and learn Sanskrit. From 1794 he began to write essays on Indian religion, poetry and science in the *Asiatic Researches*. In 1798 he translated from the Sanskrit *the Digest of the Hindu Law on contracts and successions* and it was published in four volumes. While acting as a judge of the New Court of Appeal in Calcutta he was appointed a professor of Hindu law and Sanskrit at the College of Fort William. In 1805 he published his first volume of Sanskrit Grammar and began to write his famous

¹ In 1819 F. Bopp published the Sanskrit text of *Nalopākhyāna* with Latin translation. This was considered as one of the gems of the poetry of the world. It has been translated into almost all European languages and is selected as the preliminary reading for students in all Western Universities. His Sanskrit Grammar (1827—34) and his *Glossarium Sanscritum* have done much towards the furtherance of Sanskrit study in Germany.

articles on the Vedas. It was this attempt of Mr. Colebrooke that brought for the first time the knowledge of Vedic literature into Europe. He published besides many texts, translations and essays, among which the names of Amara Kośa, Hitopadesa, Kirātāryuniyam and the grammar of Pāṇini may be mentioned. On his retirement he presented to the East India Company a collection of manuscripts worth £ 100,000 which is still preserved in the India office in London.

After the Vedas come the Vedāṅgas. They are six in number, viz, Śikṣā, Kalpa, Vyākaran, Nirukta, Candah and Yyotis. Besides there are the Purāṇas, Nyāya Mīmāṃsā and Dharma Śāstras ¹. The four Vedas, the six Vedāṅgas, the Purāṇ, Nyāya Mīmāṃsā and Dharma Śāstras go by the general name of fourteen Vidyās ². These

Vedāṅgas
and other
branches of
science

¹ There are eighteen purāṇas and an equal number of Upapurāṇas all attributed to Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana Vyāsa. Nyāya includes Vaiśeṣik Darśan also. Mīmāṃsā comprises both Pūrva and Uttara Mīmāṃsās. The Rāmāyaṇ, the Mahābhārat, the Sāṃkhya, the Pātanjali, the Pāśupat, the Vaiṣṇava and other Darśans are included in Dharmasūtras. These are known by the general term Smṛti. Besides these Āstika Darśans there are six Nāstika Darśans also, but they are not included in the fourteen kinds of Vidyā as they are not useful in the realisation of human pursuits.

² पुराणन्याय-मीमांसा-धर्मशास्त्राङ्गमिश्रिता ।

वेदाः स्थानानि विद्याणां धर्मस्य च चतुर्दश ॥

fourteen Vidyās along with the four Upavedas, viz, आयुर्वेद, धनुर्वेद, गान्धर्ववेद and शिल्पवेद form what is technically called अष्टादश प्रस्थान. Mahopādhyāya Madhusūdan Sarasvati, the pride of Bengal, has dealt with these briefly in his “अष्टादशप्रस्थान” and has shown that all these tend to the realization of Brahma

Religious
and philo-
sophical
works and
originality
of sanskrit.

The development of religion and philosophical thought in Sanskrit literature is also noteworthy. The lofty height which the Indo-Aryan intellect had attained is conclusively borne testimony to by a careful perusal of these works. In ancient India the spread of education amongst all ranks of people had its desired effect of making society sober and raising its moral tone. The philosophical literature of India again bears testimony to the high speculative powers of her people. Ever since the period of Aryan invasion Indian civilisation and religion have developed side by side without being affected by foreign influences. It is this isolation by which the Indians were able to retain the individuality of their own faith and culture inspite of a number of invasions and conquests by different nations at different times.

The history of ancient Indian literature falls chiefly into two periods—the Vedic

and the Classical or Sanskrit According to some eminent scholars, as has already been said, the former covers the period beginning from 3000 B C and extending to 200 B C This may again be subdivided into three literary strata according to differences in language and style and also in religion and social views These sub-divisions, so to say, are the Samhitā period, the Brāhman period and the Śūtra period The first stage extends from 3000 B C to 1400 B C the second from 1400 B C to 800 B C and the third from 800 B C to 200 B C The first two stages are, no doubt, the Vedic stages, but the third, i.e. the Śūtra period, is not really so This, to speak the truth, belongs to the latter period and is the source of all literatures designated as स्मृति The latter (i.e. the Sanskrit or Classical period) extends from 200 B C to 1000 A D or more strictly to the modern time. All but श्रुति come under this division.

Principal
periods of
Sanskrit
literature
—their
subdivi-
sions.

“History,” says Macdonell, “is the one weak point in Indian literature.” He states two reasons to palliate this defect First the Indians had not to struggle hard for their existence like the Romans or the Greeks and so they found no necessity for the development of political history.

Lack of
chronology.

Indian
conception
of history

Secondly, the Brāhmanas whose task it was to chronicle all great events did not care to record historical events, for to them all action, nay, existence itself—was a positive evil. So in matters historical we do not get definite dates till we come to about 500 A D. The reasons assigned by the learned Professor are not, however, convincing. The Indians have a peculiar conception of History or Itihāsh (as they call it) by which they mean a treatise diversified by narrative and conducive to the attainment of virtue, wealth and salvation¹. We get a systematic history, for instance, in the Vedic and Paurāṇic literatures of India. Dr Roth remarks, "According to my conviction, no more essential service could be rendered to the history of the ancient East, perhaps to the whole of ancient history, than to make known and exactly investigate the Vedic writings." Colonel Todd also in his preface to *Rājasthān* is of opinion that the Indians who improved every other branch of science could not but have written histories, which perhaps have been lost in the successive tides of invasion which have passed over the country. But

1 चम्मर्थकाममोक्षाणामुपदेशसमन्वितम्
पूर्ववृत्तं कथायुक्तमितिहासं प्रवक्षते ॥

the chief defect of this kind of history is that it does not give us a reliable frame-work of dates

To prepare a chronological history of ancient India, we shall have mainly recourse to the Vedic and classical literatures of the country. Besides the account of the foreign travellers, such as, Fa Hian who came to India in the reign of Candragupta II (Vikramāditya), Hiouen Tsang (Yuan Chwang) who visited India in king Harsa's time and I Tsing (671-95); ancient coins, copper-plate-grants and inscriptions on rocks and pillars furnish us with historical materials for the construction of the ancient history of India. These have shed light not only on the chronology of some Sanskrit poets, but also upon the religious and social condition of India in the past.

Materials
for the con-
struction
of the
ancient
history of
India.

Epigraphical researches have thrown some light on the history of Indian script. The Aśoka inscriptions are taken by some to be the earliest records of Indian writing. Prof Winternitz says thus against it—"Palaeographic facts prove undeniably that writing cannot have been a new invention as late as the time of Aśoka, but must already have had a long history behind it" (Vide Winternitz's Indian A3.

Indian
scripts—
their
varieties.

Literature, p 31 , Vol I) Some scholars have suggested that two types of script were known in ancient India—the Khārosthī and the Brāhmī These were written respectively *from right to left* and *from left to right* Another version is that once both these were written *from right to left* According to Dr Buller the former was employed in Gāndhār from 400 B. C to 200 A. D. and was borrowed from the Aramaic type of Semitic writing , while the latter, the true national writing of India, was introduced about 800 B. C by traders coming by way of Mesopotamia Some occidental scholars are of opinion that the complete Indian alphabet existed about 500 B. C But Prof Gold Stucker in his *Introduction to Pāṇini* has proved conclusively from both internal and external evidences that letters were known to Pāṇini, who according to him flourished about 800 B. C. Thus existence of letter is in his opinion pre-Pāṇinian. These opinions of Western scholars do not seem to be convincing The Śaḍvīmśa Brāhmaṇa of the Sāma Veda, the Chāndyogya and the Mundaka Upaniṣads mention the name of six Vedāṅgas. Śikṣā is one of the Vedāṅgas This deals with vowels and consonants, accents and euphonic

Opinion of
Dr Buller.

Opinions
of some
Western
scholars

Evidence of
Brāhmans
and Upani-
sads etc.

combinations etc This clearly shows that the origin of script goes back as far as 1400 B C, which is supposed to be the lowest limit of the Brāhman period by many modern scholars छान्दोग्य Upanisad again speaks of the vowels, gutturals, palatals, cerebrals, dentals, labials and the sibilants¹ Prof Weber in his edition of Śatapatha Brāhman, where the mention of singular and plural number is found, (Vide D A Weber's Edition p 990), has proved that the time when Śatapatha Brāhman was written the Sanskrit Grammar had attained its perfection. The Aitareya Brāhman not only corroborates his views but in 125 speaks clearly of letters, words and their varieties. Gopatha Brāhman also has (124) letters, words and sentences etc incorporated into it. Rgvedic hymns also do not seem to favour the views of the Western scholars but point to the reverse conclusion From them we learn that it was the panis (with whom the Phoenicians are identified by many scholars) that stole the Vedas which were recovered by Brahmanaspati, and this could not have been possible

Opinion of
Mr Weber.

Aitareya
Brāhmana.

¹ सर्व्वेस्वरा इन्द्रस्य आत्मानः सर्व्वे उष्मायाः प्रजापतेर आत्मानः सर्व्वे
स्पर्शामृत्योरात्मानः etc-छान्दोग्य २।२।३-५।

Pātañjali
Mahābhāṣya.

if the Vedas had existed only in speeches and not in writing. Besides the verses चत्वारि शृङ्गात्रयोऽस्यपादा etc (R. V 4, 58, 4), चत्वारिवाक् परिमितापदानि (R V. 1 165 45), उतत्वपश्यन् नददर्शवाचम् (R V 10. 71 4), सक्तुमिव तितिउना पूनन्तः (R V. 10 71 2) etc, quoted by Pātañjali in his Mahābhāṣya clearly point to the use of words in their refined sub-divisions. Poet Bhāsa who possibly flourished in the 4th century B C speaks thus in his Pañcarātra—“दृष्टपरिस्पन्दानां योघ-पुरुषाणां कर्म्मणि पुस्तकमारोपयति कुमारः ।” Besides, the Rāmāyana which in its germinal form was undoubtedly composed before 1500 B C, has the following lines at the close of Lankākāṇḍa —“विनायकाश्च शाम्यन्ति गृहे तिष्ठति यस्य वै ।” “ऐश्वर्यं पुत्रलाभश्च भविष्यति न सशयः । रामायणमिदं कृतं शृण्वतः पठतः सदा ॥” “भक्त्या रामस्य ये चेमां सहितामृषिणा कृताम् ।” ये लिखन्तीह च नरास्तेषां वासस्त्रिविष्टपे ॥” All these clearly show that writing was fully known to the Aryans long before the time of Aśoka and before 800 B C. The Bactrian is avowedly not so full as Pāli, its vowels being fewer and consonants deficient. Far less tenable is the theory of the Bactrian origin of the Sanskrit script (which certainly existed before Pāli ; as the latter is only a dialectic variation of the former) as the Bactrian is of too recent a date to be

Bactrian
origin of
Sanskrit
scripts

supposed to be the earliest medium for writing Sanskrit. The Dravadian origin of Pāli, as well as of Sanskrit, is also to be discarded as the very fulness of Pāli, possibly the first dialectic form of Sanskrit, is opposed to the theory of Tamilian origin. Considering all these points it is fairly certain that the art of writing was known even in the Vedic age and had an independent origin of it

Dravadian
origin of
Sanskrit.

The Brāhmī script¹ from which have originated Nāgri and other scripts prevailing in all the Aryan dialects of India, is of two types—the Northern and the Southern. They are noticed in the inscriptions of the 3rd century. From the Khārosthī descended the characters employed in the Canarese and the Telegu country

Varieties
of Brāhmī.

Birch bark, palm leaf, śāchī and plates of brass, copper and stone, were the materials on which Indian manuscripts were written. Paper was introduced after Mahomedan conquest. The use of ink was perhaps introduced in the 2nd. century B. C. Before this palm leaves etc., were scratched with a stylus and the characters were blackened by soot of charcoal.

Writing
materials.

¹ May it refer to the script with which Brāhma or Veda was written? The pauranic legend is that it originated from Brahmā

Sanskrit
a spoken
language.

A close and careful study of Sanskrit literature will convince the reader that Sanskrit was a spoken language from pre-historic times. Yāska, Pāṇini and Patañjali speak of Sanskrit as Bhāsā or spoken language as opposed to the literary one, though there existed some dialectical and provincial differences¹ Kātyāyana speaks of logical differences, while Patañjali of words occurring only in a single district² From this it can fairly be concluded that till the 2nd century B C Sanskrit was actually spoken in the whole of Āryāvarta. The distribution of the dialect in Sanskrit Dramas also shows that the use of Sanskrit speech was not confined to the Brāhmaṇas only but also prevailed among men of many higher classes as well as among men of letters According to Dr Winternitz Sanskrit is not a dead language even now. It is in this language that Indian scholars converse on scientific questions as yet. He further says that Sanskrit plays the

Dr. Winternitz's view.

1 “प्रागुदञ्चौविभजते हंसः क्षीरोदकेयथा ।

विदुषां शब्दसिद्धयर्थं सा नः पातु शरावती ॥ Quoted by Kaśikā.

2 “शब्दो गतिकर्मा कम्बोजेष्वेव भाषितोभवति । विकार-
त्रयमाख्या भाषन्ते शब्द इति । हम्मतिः छराष्ट्रेषु, दाग्रमुदीच्येषु, रंहतिः
प्राच्यमध्येषु, गमिमेव त्वाख्या. प्रयुज्यते । दातिर्लवनार्थं प्राच्येषु,
प्राग्रमुदीच्येषु... ” महाभाष्य p 29. Benares Edition.

same part in India still "as Latin in the middle ages in Europe or as Hebrew with the Jews" (Vide History of Indian Literature Vol I, Calcutta, 1927, p 45)

Almost all Indian dialects have sprung from Sanskrit, but it is still a matter of dispute when Prākṛit first came into being. According to Patañjali there are only two sorts of pure language—the *Vedic* and the *Laukik*. All other languages and dialects are but mutilated forms of these two and generally go by the name of *Apabhramśa*. Prākṛit with all its varieties is apabhramśa. A close study of Vedic hymns would show that Prākṛit descended from Vedic and not from classical Sanskrit. Pāli is another apabhramśa dialect. The earliest Buddhist literature composed in Pāli about the 5th century B C, proves the antiquity of that language. The introduction of Sanskrit verses in Pāli inscriptions proves that the two languages flourished side by side even in olden days.

Sanskrit is the source of all Indian dialects

Sanskrit exercised a great influence in the religious literature of India, and so Buddhist and Jain teachers tried to learn it. This led to the composition of the Northern Buddhist texts in Sanskrit, and the intermingling of the two languages

Influence of Sanskrit on the Buddhist and Jain literatures

The Gāthā (Sanskrit and Pāli) gave rise to a new type of language called Gāthā in which Lalitavistāra, the life of Buddha, was written.

Influence of Prākṛt on Sanskrit Sanskrit language again was largely influenced by Prākṛt. It assimilated a large number of words from Piākṛit with their accents

The very name Piākṛt denotes its descent from some original source and this source as has been shown before is Sanskrit. Dandī too in his Kāvyaadarśa speaks in the same strain¹. But there are scholars who take it as an original language Sir George Grierson classifies it under three heads— (1) Primary Prākṛts, the source of Vedic and classical Sanskrit, (2) Secondary Prākṛts comprising Pāli and other mutilated forms represented in dramatic and Pāli literature and called Apabhraṃśa by grammarians, (3) and the modern Vernaculars. At first there were only two types of Prākṛit—the Eastern and the Western. These, in the middle ages, were divided into

Sir George Grierson and the division of Prākṛt

¹ तदेतद् वाङ्मयं भूय. संस्कृतं प्राकृतः तथा ।

अपत्र शश्च मिश्रञ्चेत्याहुरार्याश्चतुर्विधम् ॥

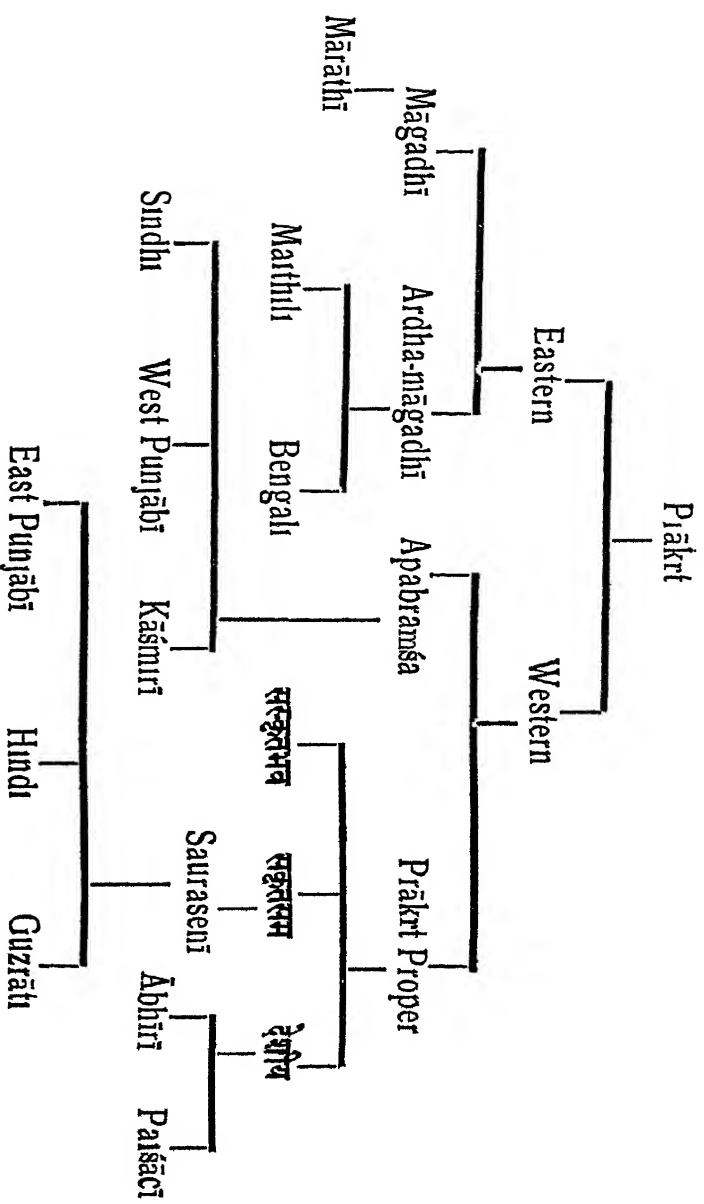
संस्कृत नाम दैवीवागन्वाख्याता महर्षिभिः ।

तद्भवस्तत्समोदेशीत्यनेकप्राकृतक्रमः ॥ काव्यादर्श १।३२-३३ ।

four main sections—Māgadhi and Ardha-Māgadhi in the East and Apabhramsa and Śaurasenī in the West. From Māgadhi came Māīāthī and from Ardha-Māgadhi the Bengali and Maithili. Sindhi, West Punjābī and Kāsmīrī originated from Apabhramsa, from Śaurasenī descended the East Punjābī, Hindi (the old Avantī) and Gujrātī. In Aśvaghoṣa's dramas we meet with the old Māgadhi, the old Ardha-Māgadhi and old Śaurasenī types of Prākṛt. Mahārastri and Śaurasenī types are found in Jaina literatures. It is said that the Brhatkathā of Guṇādhyāya was written in Paisāchi Prākṛt. The Nāṭya Śāstra of Bharata mentions several varieties of Śaurasenī (such as, Dāksināṭya, Āvantī and Takṛī) and Māgadhi (such as, Chandālī and Śakārī) Prākṛts. We give below a **genealogical table** showing the varieties of Prākṛit and the source of all modern Vernaculars.

General
divisions
of Prākṛt.





Exercise

1 Describe the origin and development of the Vedas and state the relation of the Atharva Veda to three other Vedas.

2. Explain the term ऋषी and discuss the statement—"Atharva Veda was composed long after the composition of the other three Vedas

3. Name the principal priests of the Vedas and their respective functions

4 Discuss the age of Vedic literatures.

5 What do you know of the general division of the Vedas ?

6. State how the manuscripts of the Vedas were collected

7. Give a short account of the principal European scholars that devoted themselves to the study of Sanskrit in the 18th. and 19th. centuries, (C U. 1916 Pass)

8. Describe briefly the influence which Sanskrit literature has received from and exercised upon the nations of the West. (C.U. 1920 Pass)

9 Give a brief account of the labours of early European scholars in introducing the study of Sanskrit in the West. (C U. 1922. Hons.)

10 Describe briefly the influence of sanskrit literature on the West in the last century (C.U. 1923 Pass)

11. Indicate the services rendered to the cause of Sanskrit literature either by Sir William Jones or by Henry Thomas Colebrooke, (C.U 1915 Pass)

12 Give a concise account of Henry Thomas Colebrooke as a pioneer of Sanskrit studies (C.U. 1913 Pass)

13 Give the principal periods of Sanskrit literature and their divisions

14 Discuss the statement of Prof Macdonell —“History is one weak point in Indian literature”

15 What materials are there for the construction of the ancient history of India ?

16 Discuss Macdonell's theory of the origin and development of the Sanskrit alphabets What probable date does he assign to the origin ? (C U 1910 Pass)

17 Name the two kinds of script known in ancient India, and indicate some of their prominent characteristics with the probable dates of their introduction or use in anicent India. (C U 1929. Hons.)

18 What evidences can be adduced to prove the existence of a popular language, as distinguished from a literary one in ancient India ? Mention four classes of the Prākṛt from which the Bengali language has descended (C.U. 1929 Hons.)

19 Adduce some evidence to show that Sanskrit was a spoken language in Northern India in the 2nd, century B C (C U. 1928 Hons)

20 Adduce some evidence to show that in the 2nd, century B C. Sanskrit was actually spoken in the whole of Āryāvarta (C U 1927 Pass)

21. State what you understand by the expression classical Sanskrit ?' (C U 1926 Pass)

22 Describe the relation of Sanskrit to Prākṛt and Pāli (C U 1915 and 1923 Hons)

23 Trace the development of Prākṛt dialects. (C U, 1914 Pass)

CHAPTER I

THE RGVEDA.

Definition
and scope of
the Veda
as given
by various
scholars

The word Veda means 'Knowledge — the best of all knowledge in the eyes of the Aryans, or it means the ways with which perfect knowledge is attained. Ācārya Sāyana, in his Introduction to the Rgveda, explains the term as the means which divulges the secret of true knowledge unattainable either by perception or by guess¹. Most Hindus accept the whole Veda (the Samhitā portion as well as the Brāhmana, Āranyaka and the Upanisad portions) as inspired revelation, while the Ārya Samājist and members of some other sects hold the hymns alone as revealed literature. There are conflicting opinions as to the definition of the Veda. Jaimini in his Mīmāṃsā, though he does not define, yet gives expressly the idea of the Veda as a work consisting of मन्त्र and ब्राह्मण². Vedānta philosophy also accepts this as a correct definition. Kautilya in

¹ प्रत्यक्षेणानुमित्या वा यस्तूपायोन बुध्यते ।

एतद्विदन्ति वेदेन तस्मात् वेदस्य वेदता ॥

² मन्त्रब्राह्मणयोर्वेदनामधेयम् ।

his *Arthaśāstra* composed about the fourth century B C states that "the three Vedas Sāma, Rk and Yajuh constitute the triple Vedas. These together with the Atharva Veda and the Itihāsa Veda are known as the Vedas." In his opinion *Itihāsa* comprises the Purānas, Itivṛtta (history), Ākhyāna (tales), Udāharanas (illustrative stories), Dharmasāstra¹ and Arthaśāstra, Kautilya's definition is indeed wider than what is ordinarily accepted.

The Rgveda is the earliest poetry of the Indo-Aryans who are supposed to have settled on the North-Western borders of India and beyond the Punjab. This is a compilation of a very large number of hymns numbering 1028 according to Vāskala school and 1017 according to Śākala school, the 11 Bālakhilya hymns (49-59 Sūktas of Mandala VIII) being excluded. The shortest hymn has only one stanza, while the longest one has fifty-eight. These hymns are distributed into eight Aṣṭakas or ten Maṇḍalas varying in their lengths. The hymns of the Veda according to some scholars were not originally written but handed down from father to

Description
of the
Rgveda
and its
critical
estimate.

¹ Revised Translation of Arthaśāstra by R. Sam Śāstrī (Bangalore Govt., Press 1915), Book I Chapters 3 & 5 pp 7—11.

son or from preceptor to disciple and hence the name *Śruti* "The Rgveda", as Whitney observes, "contains the germ of the whole after-development of Indian religion and poetry" It is respected by students of humanity because of its remote antiquity, its unique character and the light it sheds upon the evolution of mankind especially in India

Original
portion of
the Rgveda.

According to Western scholars Mandalas II to VII (popularly known as Family Books) form the nucleus of the whole Rgveda and are almost similar in their nature The other books were subsequently added to them In the opinion of others Mandala IX was added to a book consisting of the first eight Mandalas. The tenth Maṇḍala was only a recent addition.

Why should
a Vedic
scholar be
versed in
the
knowledge
of Rsi,
metre etc.

According to Vedic teachers persons teaching or studying the Vedas must have knowledge of the seers to whom the hymns were revealed, the metres in which they are written and the deities invoked therein or they become sinful Besides, they shall have knowledge of accent and application of the hymns. Without their knowledge the reverse result is produced.¹

1 अविदित्वा ऋषि इन्द्रोद्देवत योगमेव च ।

बोद्धव्यापयेत्जपेद्वापि पापीयान् जायते तु सः ॥

Rsis—These hymns, as said before, were revealed to a number of sages called ऋषि (seers) at different times. They are the mediums of communication between gods and men. According to Yāska the ऋषि fall under two divisions—(1) those “seers” to whom the ऋग् was revealed and (2) the descendents or disciples of those to whom it was handed down by oral instructions ¹

Meaning of
Rsi or seer

Metre—छन्दः or metre is one of the six *Vedāngas*. The roots छदि from which the word comes means *to cover*. The Aitareya Āranyaka says that छन्दः ‘covers or protects men from sinful actions. Or it is so called because it protects the Yajamāna from the heat of the fire he kindles’ There is a legend in the Taittirīya Samhitā in this connection. According to this legend Prajāpati himself kindled fire to perform sacrifice. The fire he kindled assumed the form of a pointed weapon. The gods out of fear could not approach it. Then they covered themselves with छन्दः and approached it

Metres and
their
varieties

ऋषिच्छन्दोदैवतानि ब्राह्मणार्थं स्वराद्यपि । अविदित्वा प्रयुञ्जानो
मन्त्रकण्टक उच्यते ॥ स्वरो वर्णोऽक्षर मात्रा विनियोगोऽर्थ एव च ।
मन्त्रजिज्ञासमानेन वेदितव्यं पदे पदे ॥ ऋषिच्छन्दोदैवतानि विनियोगाथ-
मेव च । अविदित्वा प्रयुञ्जानो विनिपातः पदे पदे ।

¹ निरुक्त I 20

the proper reading and recitation of the Vedic texts. **प्रातिशाख्य** deals with this at its closing section. There are seven principal *candas* in the Vedas, viz, गायत्री, उष्णिक्, अनुष्टुप्, बृहती, पंक्ति, त्रिष्टुप् and जगती. Besides these, there is a number of minor metres¹.

Gods—देवताs or gods are those to whom hymns are addressed. Generally one god is adored in a hymn, but sometimes two or more deities are invoked in one hymn.

Application—A hymn or a part of it or some additional verses inserted in a particular hymn is applied to a particular Vedic rite or rites. This is what goes by the name of विनियोग or application. It is said that one without the knowledge of ऋचि, छन्दः, देवता, विनियोग and अर्थ or meaning of the Vedic text, cannot reap the fruits of the rites he performs.

¹ These are 14 in number divided into two groups, each containing seven metres. अतिजगती, शङ्करी अतिशङ्करी, अष्टि, षष्टि, द्युति and अतिद्युति come under the first group, while छति.

Sūkta—Collections of a number of verses by some seer having a complete sense, which are dedicated to some deity or deities with a view to propitiate them are called *Sūktas*¹. The *sūktas* are of two kinds—**जुदसूक्त** and **महासूक्त**. The former is consisted of less than ten rks, while the latter comprises more than ten rks. Besides, there are **ऋषिसूक्त**, **देवतासूक्त** and **छन्दसूक्त**. *Sūktas* compiled by a particular rsi seriatim are known as **ऋषिसूक्त**s. The rks in a *sūkta* addressed to two or more deities are called **देवतासूक्त**s. *Sūktas* written in the same metre continuously are styled **छन्दसूक्त**s.

What is a
Sūkta?—
Its kind

Samhitā—The hymns compiled in its present form are called *Samhitās* meaning compilations. There are two sorts of *Samhitā*—**Nirbhūja** and **Pratīna**. The first is read in order, while the second has two kinds of *pāṭhas* called *Pada* and *Krama*. This is the **मन्त्र** portion of the *Veda* and is of two kinds—**रूढा** and **योगा**. The former means the inner significance of the verse, while the latter expresses what is understood from the words of the verse.

Samhitā or
mantra por-
tion of the
Veda.

The divisions of the *Rgveda* are of a two-fold nature in as much as they are

Division of
the Veda.

1 सम्पूर्णं ऋषिवाक्यं तु सूक्तमित्यभिधीयते—बृहदेवता

divided into *Astakas*, *Adhyāyas* and *Vargas* and into *Māṇḍalas*, *Sūktas* and *Anuvākas* as well

Division
in Astakas
and its
nature.

Astakas—The whole Rgveda is divided into eight parts varying in length. Each of these parts is called an Astaka. The principle underlying the division in Astakas is that each of them contains eight chapters. Thus there are altogether sixty-four chapters in the Rgveda. This division is convenient for study. *Vargas* generally consist of five verses but they vary in their length also. There is 1 Varga with one verse, 2 Vargas with two verses, 97 Vargas with three verses, 174 Vargas with four verses, 1207 Vargas with five verses, 346 Vargas with six verses, 119 Vargas with seven verses, 59 Vargas with eight verses, and one Varga with nine verses. Thus the total number of Vargas is 2006 containing 10417 verses. But Śaunakācārya's Anukramaṇī says that there are 10580 verses and one pāda in the Rgveda. Besides it is stated that there are 21232 half verses and a pāda, 110,704 Carcāpadas¹ and 432,000 letters.

Number
of verses,
pādas and
letters in
the Veda.

1 चर्चापदानि क्रमरूपेण अभ्यस्तानि पदानि ।

ऋचां दशसहस्राणि ऋचां पञ्चशतानिच ।

ऋचामशीतिः पादश्च पारणं संप्रकीर्तितम् ॥४३॥

Mandala—One principle pervades the division of the Rgveda in Mandalas in as much as each Mandala has been composed by a certain Rsi or by his family excepting the 1st and the 10th. Another strange coincidence is that these two Mandalas contain an exact number of hymns, the number being 191. The number of Anuvākas is eighty-five. The Mandala system is now invariably followed by Vedic scholars while referring to or quoting from the Rgveda.

Division in
Mandala
and its
nature.

The first mandala is called Śatarcinah as it was seen by मधुच्छन्दा, दीर्घतमा, अङ्गिराः, कण्व and others who composed one hundred verses. The number of sūktas here is 191. The second mandala containing 43 sūktas was seen by गृत्समद and his descendants. The third mandala, with 62 sūktas was seen by विश्वामित्र and his sons and disciples. This mandala contains the celebrated ṛk called गायत्री (62 10). The fourth mandala consisting of 58 sūktas was seen by Vāmadeva and his family. The fifth mandala comprising 87 sūktas was seen by Atri and his followers. The sixth

The Family
Books.

अर्धर्चाणां सहस्राणामेकविंशतिकं तथा ।

शतद्वयं तु द्वात्रिंशत् सपादं मुनिभिः पुरा ॥४४॥

शाकल्यदृष्टे पदलक्षमेकसार्धं च वेदे त्रिसहस्रयुक्तं ।

शतानि चाष्टौ दशकद्वयं च पदानि षट् चेति हि चर्चितानि ॥४५॥

maṇḍala having 75 sūktas was seen by Bharadvāja and his disciples. The seventh maṇḍala, which has 104 sūktas, was seen by Vaśiṣṭha and his family. The eighth maṇḍala having 114 sūktas (including the eleven Valakhilya sūktas) was seen by Kanva and his disciples. The ninth maṇḍala contains 114 sūktas. It is peculiar that all of them invoke *Soma*. The Sāma Veda having connection with Soma-sacrifice mainly draws its sūktas from this maṇḍala. It was seen by पावमान्य ऋषिरा. The tenth maṇḍala was seen by seers known as बुद्धसूक्तीय (a sūkta having less than 10 rks) and महासूक्तीय (having more than 10 rks) ऋषि and like the first is consisted of 191 sūktas. The peculiarity of the maṇḍala is that the gods addressed here are said to be the seers of the hymns. There are scholars, both oriental and occidental, who suppose it to be of later origin.

Tenth
Mandala,
a later
addition.

The tenth Mandala abounds in good many peculiar things, such as, incantations, spells and charms which are almost absent in other Mandalas. In support of its being a later addition the following reasons amongst others may be adduced—

(i) Deities spoken of in the previous maṇḍalas hardly find any place in this Maṇḍala.

(ii) The deities called विश्वदेवा occupy a prominent position here

(iii) Some of the prominent Gods disappeared but some of the minor Gods remained.

(iv) Goddess Dawn (उषा) omitted, Indra and Agni remained

(v) Abstract ideas, such as, *Earth* (भूमा), *Wrath* (मन्यु) &c., are introduced here for the first time

(vi) Cosmogonical hymns, philosophical matters, incantations, spells &c, are the peculiar features of this Maṇḍala. The cosmogonical matters are found in the *Puruṣa* (X 90) and *Nāsadīya* (the song of creation) (X. 129) sūktas and philosophical matters in the *Kah* (X 121) and *Vāgāmvṛinī* or *Devi* (X 125) sūktas

(vii) Some of the new subjects which are scarcely found in earlier parts, are mentioned here, such as, five funeral hymns (X 14-18), the incantations to preserve the life of one Subandhu lying dead by his brother (X 58, 60. 7-12), the spell for averting the evil malady, *Phthisis* (यक्ष्मा) (X 163), the spell to procure children (X. 183). etc.

(viii) The language and metre are similar to those of the classical (लौकिक) literature.

(ix) The Euphonic combination (सन्धि) is more frequent here than in the previous Maṇḍalas.

(x) The use of the letter 'l' supersedes that of the letter 'd' here

(xi) The word 'सिम' found only once here.

(xii) Old words become scarce and new words, such as, the root लुङ्, *time, fortune, kāma, lakṣmī* etc., are introduced

Different
texts of the
Veda and
their
utilities.

In order to guard the Samhitā form of the R̥gveda from any sort of change or interpolation several texts were prepared carefully. The number of these texts known as Pāṭhas is eleven. Of these the three are *Prakṛtipāṭhas* and eight *Vikṛtipāṭhas*. There are two sorts of Prakṛti, viz, *Yogā* and *Rudhā*. *Prakṛtipāṭhas* are the *Samhitā* (योग), the *Pada* and the *Krama* (रुद्धा), while the *Vikṛtipāṭhas* are the *Jatā*, *Mālā*, *Sikhā*, *Lekhā*, *Dhvaja*, *Daṇḍa*, *Ratha* and *Ghana*, each headed by *Krama* ¹. It is very difficult to ascertain what time intervenes between the *Samhitā* and these texts. Śākalya, the author of the *Pada-text*, has been quoted both by Yāska, the author of *Nirukta* and Śaunaka, the author of *R̥k-Prāṭisākhya*. Besides, the mention of

¹ “जटामालाशिखालेखा ध्वजोदण्डोरथोघनः ।

अष्टौ विकृतयः प्रोक्ताः क्रमपूर्वाः मनीषिभिः ॥”

व्याहीकृत जटापटलम् ।

Pada-text is found in the *Āitareya Āraṇyaka*. So this text is earlier than *Nirukta*, *Rkprā-tiśākhya* and *Āitareya Āraṇyaka*. Of the *Vikṛtis* *Jatā* and *Danda* are most important, as *Śikhā* follows *Jatā* and *Mālā*, *Lekhā*, *Rathā* and *Dhvaja* follow the *Danda* *Ghana* follows the both

Age of, the
Pada-text.

The Rgveda has three different varieties, the Veda proper, the *Vikṛti*'s and the *Śākhās* which will be described hereafter¹. The Veda proper is the *Prakṛtipāṭha* The recensions of the sages *Śākala* and *Vāskala* ; the *Āitareya Brāhman* and *Āitareya Āraṇyaka* ; the *Śāṅkhayana* and *Māṇḍūkya Brāhman* ; and the *Kauṣītaki Brāhman* and *Kauṣītaki Āraṇyaka*, these are the eight divisions of the Rgveda, according to *Caranabyūha*².

The Rgveda should be read in four different ways, viz *क्रमपार.*, *क्रमपद.*, *क्रमजट* and *क्रमदण्डः* । “One, who would go to the end of the Veda in these four different ways” says *Caranabyūha*, “will be attended with progeny, cattle, fame and brāhmanical power Besides, he would go to heaven and live here for full hundred years ”

Vedic study
—its effect.

¹ वेदाविकृतिशास्त्राश्च भेदस्तु त्रिविधस्तथा ।

पृथङ् नानाविधानेन व्यासेन कथित पुरा ॥

² तत्र ऋग्वेदस्याष्टौ स्थानानि भवन्ति—चरणव्यूह परिशिष्ट १४।

The [explanation of this is given thus—तत्र ऋग्वेदस्याष्ट-
भेदाभवन्ति—शाकलवास्कलौ, ऐतरेयब्राह्मणारण्यकौ, शाङ्खायनमाण्डूकौ,
कौषीतकी-ब्राह्मणारण्यकौ ।

Various Texts of the Veda.

1. **The Samhitā-pāṭha**—It is just as we get in the mantra portion of the Veda. It runs thus—अग्निमीले पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य देवमृत्विजम् etc.

Illustration
of Pada-
pāṭha.

2 **The Pada-Pāṭha**—It gives the words of the *rk*s in a separate and independent form and runs thus—अग्निम् । ईले । पुरोहितम् । यज्ञस्य । देवम् । अृत्विजम् । If each of the words of the *rk* be represented by the letters a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h, etc, then this may be represented symbolically thus—a,b,c,d,e,f,g, etc After duals the particle 'इति' is added to the *Pada-text* and then the word, if a compound, is repeated. Some words are often dropped, which are called *galitas*. The six *rk*s Man. 7 59 12 ; Man 1. 20.1 ; 121. 10 ; and 190 1-2-3 have not been analysed in the *Pada-text* of Śākalya, who might have doubted the authority of these six

Illustration
of Kramā-
pāṭha.

Krama-pāṭha—This may literally be called "*Step-text*". It takes the words of the *rk*s two at a time and runs thus—अग्निम् ईले । ईले पुरोहितम् । पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य etc. It is represented by symbols thus —ab, bc, cd, de, etc.

4. **Jatā-pāṭha**—Or “*Woven-text*” repeats the combination of the *Krama-pāṭha* three times, the middle one being in the reverse order. It runs thus—अग्निमीदेईदेभि-मग्निमीदे । ईदे पुरोहितं पुरोहितमीदे ईदे पुरोहितम् etc. In symbols it would run thus—ab, ba, ab ; bc, cb, bc ; etc.

Illustration
of ४. ४
Jatā pāṭha.

5. **Mālā-pāṭha**—or “*Garland-text*” repeats the combination of the *Krama-pāṭha* from the beginning of the hemistich till it reaches the end of it and its reverse from the end of the hemistich till it reaches the beginning. It runs thus—अग्निमीले, ऋत्विजं देव । ईले पुरोहितं, देवं यज्ञस्य । पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य, यज्ञस्य पुरो-हितम् । यज्ञस्य देव पुरोहितमीले । देवऋत्विजम् ईलेभिम् । When put in symbols it would run in this way—abfe ; bced , cddc , decb , efba, etc

Illustration
of Mālā
pāṭha

6. **Lekhā-pāṭha**—or “*Line-text*” repeats the combination of the *Krama-pāṭha* in reverse order taking the words of the *ṛks* two, three, four and five at a time. It runs thus—अग्निमीले ; ईलेभिम्, अग्निमीले । ईले-पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य ; यज्ञस्य पुरोहितमीले , ईलेपुरोहित ; पुरोहितं यज्ञस्य etc It would run thus in symbols—ab, ba, ab ; bcd, deb, bc, cd, etc.

Illustration
of Lekhā-
Pāṭha.

1 “मालामालेव पुष्पाणां पदानां ग्रन्थिनी हि सा ।
आवर्तन्ते त्रयस्तस्यां क्रम-व्युत्क्रम-संक्रमाः ॥”

2 “क्रमाद् द्वित्रिचतुः पञ्चपदक्रममुदाहरेत् ।
पृथक् पृथक् विपर्ययस्य लेखामाहुः पुनःक्रमात् ॥”

7. **Śikhā-pāṭha**—This has the combination of the *Jatā* with one word more in each. It runs thus—अग्निमीडे । ईडे अग्निम् । अग्निमीडे पुरोहितम् etc. In symbols it runs thus—ab, ba, abc, bc, cb, bcd etc

Illustration
of Śikhā
Pāṭha

8. **Dhvaja-pāṭha**—This has the entire combination of the *Krama-pāṭha* first and then the same in the reverse order. It runs thus—अग्निमीले । ईलेपुरोहितम् । पुरोहितम् यज्ञस्य । पुरोहितम् यज्ञस्य । ईलेपुरोहिम् । अग्निम् । ईले etc. When expressed in symbols it stands thus—ab, bc, cd . cd, bc, ab etc.

Illustration
of Dhvaja
Pāṭha.

9. **Danda-pāṭha**—This repeats the combination of the *Krama-pāṭha* three times, the second one being in reverse order. This runs thus—अग्निमीले । ईलेअग्निम् । अग्निमीले । ईडे पुरोहितम् । पुरोहितमीडेअग्निम् etc. In symbols it stands thus—ab, ba, ab ; bc, cba etc

Illustration
of Danda
Pāṭha

10. **Ratha-pāṭha**—This has the combination of the *karma* and its reverse put together, like *Danda-pāṭha*, taken either in order of (a) *foot* or of (b) *hemistich*. It runs thus—(a) समिधाग्नि मग्नि समिधा । धृतै बोधयत् बोधयत् धृतै समिधाग्निम् । In symbols it runs thus—abbc, cd dc ab etc. (b) अग्निमीडे यज्ञस्य देवम् । ईडेअग्निम् देव यज्ञस्य । अग्निमीले ईले पुरोहितम् । यज्ञस्य देव देवऋत्विजम् । पुरोहितमीडेअग्निम् ऋत्विजं देव यज्ञस्य etc. In symbols it is expressed thus—abab ; bab'a', abbc; a'b'b'c', cba c'b'a' etc.

Illustration
of Ratha-
Pāṭha.

11. **Ghana-pāṭha**—It retains the first two combinations of the *Jatā-pāṭha*. Further it contains three combinations taking three words of the rk at a time, the middle one of this being in reverse order. It runs thus—अग्निमीले ईलेग्निम् अग्निमीले-पुरोहितम् पुरोहितमीलेग्निम् अग्निमीलेपुरोहितम् etc. When expressed in symbols it stands thus—ab, ba, abc, cba, abc, bc, cb, bcd, dc, bcd etc.

Illustration
of Ghana-
Pāṭha

For this very purpose, as stated above, the *Prātisākhya*s and *Anukramaṇas* were also written.

The *Prātisākhya* is a kind of Vedic grammar which treats of *Definition, Euphonic combination, Cases, Affixes*, etc. The Rk-*Prātisākhya* which is ascribed to Śaunakācārya, is very old. Uvata Bhatta, son of Vajrāta, and a resident of Ānandapur, wrote a commentary on this which is known as *Pārsada*. He, as is supposed, was a contemporary of king Bhoja of Dhārā. Besides, we have *Prātisākhya*s on the *Taittirīya* and *Vājasaneyi Samhitās*. The *Taittirīya-Prātisākhya* belongs to the *Taittirīya-Samhitā* or Black Yajurveda and *Vājasaneyi-Prātisākhya* to *Vājasaneyi-Samhitā* or white Yajurveda. This treatise is ascribed to Kātyāyana who is supposed

*Prātisākhya*s—
their scope
and commen-
taries.

Rk-*Prātisākhya*—

Taittirīya
and
*Vājasaneyi-Prātisākhya*s.

to be the *Vārtikakāra* of the sage Pāṇini's grammatical aphorisms (a grammar chiefly intended for classical as well as Vedic Sanskrit) He had mentioned Śaunakācārya as one of his predecessors The *Tribhāṣya ratna*, a comment on the *Taittirīya-Prātiśākhya*, is now in vogue It has also commentaries of the name of *Ātreya* and *Māhesī* written by Vararuci, who is presumed to be the author of the *Prākṛta-Prakāśa*, a grammar on Prākṛta language Uvata, also, commented on the *Vājasaneyya-Prātiśākhya* It has also a modern commentary named *Jyotsnā* written by Rāmcandra There is, also a *Sāma-Prātiśākhya* of the Sāma-Veda It is otherwise known as *Puṣpa Sūtra* of the sage Puṣpa It has a commentary by Ajāta-śatru There is again a work, treating with the manner of singing the sāmans at a sacrifice, which goes by the name of *Pañcaviṁśa-sūtra* Probably the work is of later origin The Atharvaveda has the *Atharva-Prātiśākhya* which is assumed to be of the school of the Śaunakas.

Sāma
Prāti-
śākhya

Atharva
Prātiśākhya

Anukrama-
nis—their
subject
matter

There is a class of works known as *Anukramanīs* or *Vedic Indices* They sprang up during the sūtra period for the preservation of the Vedic texts proper from any loss or change. In it, the first words of each hymn, its composer, the deity, the

number of verses and the metres etc are noted. *The Brhaaddevatā, Ārṣānukramanī, Chandanukramanī, Devānukramanī, Anuvāhānukramanī*, etc, are ascribed to Śaunakācārya Kātyāyana wrote *Sarvānukramaṇī* of the Vedas. Besides, the *Anukramaṇīs* of the Rg-veda, we hear also of the *Anu-krāmanīs* of the Taittirīya and Vājasaneyi Samhitās. Sacrifices would not produce desired results if incantations are applied and recited wrongly with defective knowledge of accent, metre etc. of the hymns ¹

- 1 तथा वेदनविधिश्च स्मर्यते—
 “स्वरोवर्णोऽक्षर मात्रा विनियोगार्थ एव च ।
 मन्त्र जिज्ञासमानेन वेदितव्य पदे पदे ॥
 मन्त्रोद्गीतः स्वरतो वर्णतो वा ।
 मिथ्याप्रयुक्तो न तमर्थमाह ॥
 स वाग्ब्रज्ज यजमान हिनस्ति ।
 यथेन्द्रशत्रुः स्वरतोऽपराधात् ॥

True indeed, wrong application whatsoever, produces the contrary effect on the part of the यजमान himself. Mention should be made in this connection of the यज्ञ (sacrifice) of Vṛtrāsura's father in which he wished to kill Indra, the enemy of his son, but by way of wrong application (विनियोग) of accents (स्वर वा प्रत्यक्ष) the result was just the opposite—(इन्द्र शत्रुर्वधेऽस्व T 5 2 4, 12, 1—इत्यस्मिन् मन्त्रे इन्द्रस्य शत्रुर्धातक इत्यस्मिन् विवक्षितेऽर्थे तत्पुरुषसमासे “समासस्य” इति पा ६।१।२२३ सूत्रेण तत्पुरुषत्वात् अन्तोदात्तेन भवितव्यम्, आद्युदात्तस्तु प्रयुक्तः । तथा सति पूर्वपदप्रकृतिस्वेरत्वेन बहुव्रीहित्वात् इन्द्रो धातको यस्य इत्यर्थः सम्पन्नः । तस्मात् स्वरवर्णाद्यपराधपरिहाराय शिक्षाग्रन्थोऽपेक्षितः”—Sāyana, ‘Introduction to the Rgveda’.

Tradition says that it was Vyāsa, son of Parāśara, who divided all the four Vedas. It is evidently a mistake, for we find mention of the divisions of the Vedas long before the time of this Vyāsa in the Vishnu Purāṇa. We find that there were 27 Vyāsas before *Kṛiṣṇa Dvaipāyanā Vyāsa*, who divided and arranged the Vedas in different ages ¹. It is found also in the Vedas that the great sage Atharvā once divided the Veda

¹ त्रेतायां प्रथमे व्यस्ताः स्वयं वेदाः स्वयम्भूवा ।

द्वितीये द्वापरे चैव वेदव्यास प्रजापतिः ॥

तृतीये चोशना व्यासश्चतुर्थे तु बृहस्पति ।

सविता पञ्चमे व्यासो मृत्यु षष्ठे स्मृत प्रभु ॥

सप्तमे च तथैवेन्द्रो वशिष्ठश्चाष्टमे स्मृतः ।

सारस्वतश्च नवमे त्रिधामा दशमे स्मृत ॥

एकादशे तु त्रिवृषा भरद्वाजस्ततः परम् ।

त्रयोदशे चान्तरीक्षो वप्री चापि चतुर्दशे ॥

त्रय्यारुणः पञ्चदशे षोडशे तु घनञ्जयः ।

कृतञ्जयः सप्तदशे ऋणज्याष्टोदशे स्मृतः ॥

ततो व्यासो भरद्वाजो भरद्वाजात्तु गौतम ।

गौतमादुत्तमो व्यासो 'हय्यात्मा' योभिधीयते ।

अथ हय्यात्मनो वेणु स्मृतो राजश्रवान्वयः ।

सोम शुष्मायणस्तस्मात् तृणबिन्दुरिति स्मृतः ॥

ऋद्धोभूद् भार्गवस्तस्मात् बाल्मीकिर्योऽभिधीयते ।

तस्मादस्मत् पिता शक्तिर्व्यासस्तस्मादहं मुने ॥

जातुकर्णोऽभवत् मत्तः कृष्णाद्वै पायानस्ततः ।

अष्टाविंशतिरित्येते वेदव्यासाः पुरातनाः ॥”

—विष्णुपुराणे ३।३।११-१६ ।

Therefore from the silver (व्रेता) yuga, we get the division of the Vedas. In the Vishnu, Vāyu and Bhāgavata purāṇas, we get ślokas to the effect that at first the Veda was one undivided whole and then it was divided and arranged ¹

In *Carana-Vyūha* or exposition of the school of Śaunaka we find mention of five śākhās of the Rgveda. These are the *Śākala*, *Vāskala*, *Āśvalāyana*, *Śāṃkhya* and *Māṇḍuka*. The *Rk-Prātiśākhya*, too, mentions these five śākhās only ². According to Dur-gācārya, commentator on the Nirukta, there were twenty-one śākhās of the Rgveda. The Kurma Purāṇa also supports his view ³. But in the Vishnu Purāṇa, we find that *Paṇḍita*, the disciple of Vyāsa, taught his own disciples *Indrapramita* and *Vāskala* the Rgveda which he had learnt from Vyāsa. They in their turn taught the Veda to their own disciples.

- 1 “एक एव महावेदतरुस्तेन पृथक् कृत । ३।४।१५।
एक आसीत् यजुर्वेद स्त चतुर्धाव्यकल्पयत् ॥” ३।४।११।

—विष्णुपुराणे ।

“एक एव पुरावेद प्रणवः सर्ववाङ्मय ।

एकः नारायणो देव एकोऽग्निर्वर्ण एव च ॥” ६।१४।४८।

—श्रीमद्भागवते ।

- 2 “ऋचां समूह ऋग्वेद स्तमभ्यस्य प्रयत्नत ।

पठित शाकलेनादौ चतुर्भि स्तदनन्तरम् ॥

शांख्याश्चलायनौ चैव माण्डुको वास्कलस्तथा ।

बह्वृचां ऋषय सर्वे पञ्चैते एकवेदिनः ॥”—शौनकीय प्रातिशाख्ये ।

- 3 एकविंशतिभेदेन ऋग्वेद कृतवान् पुरा—कुर्मर् ६० अध्याय ।

Māndukeya, the son and disciple of *Indrapramiti*, taught the Veda, he had learnt, to his disciple, *Vedamitra*. The five pupils of *Vedamitra* were *Mudgala*, *Gālava*, *Vātsya*, *Śāliya* and *Śīśira*. *Vāskala* took *Bandhya*, *Agnimāthara*, *Yājñavalkya*, *Parāśara*, *Gūrgya*, *Kālāyana* and *Kāthajava* as his pupils (vide *Viṣṇu-Purāṇa*, 3, 4). Thus, we see that according to *Viṣṇu-Purāṇa* there were some 16 śākhās of the Rgveda. The *Bhāgavata-purāṇa* differs a little from the *Viṣṇu-Purāṇa* in this respect. Here we get *Agnimitra* instead of *Agnimāthara*. Besides, it mentions *Saurari*, the disciple of *Māndukeya* and *Śākalya*, his son, as the founder of the śākhās. *Śākalya*, a new name, has been inserted to the exclusion of *Vedamitra* in the *Vishnu-purāṇa*. Again, we get *Gokhalya* in the *Bhāgavata-purāṇa* and *Gokula* in the *Vāyu-purāṇa* in lieu of *Gālava* of the *Viṣṇu-purāṇa*.¹

According to the *Bhāgavata-purāṇa*, *Jātukarna*, the disciple of *Śākalya*, had four pupils—*Valāka*, *Paila*, *Jājala* and *Virāja*.

¹ “मुद्गलो गोकुलो वात्स्य शैशिरः शिशिरस्तथा ।
पञ्च ते शाकलशिष्या शाखाभेदप्रवर्त्तकाः ॥” वायुपुराण ।

The वज्रचासो edition has—

तच्छिष्या अभवन् पञ्च मुद्गलो गालकस्तथा ।
खालीयश्च तथा मत्स्यः शैशिरेयस्तु पञ्चमः ॥ ६०६५

Vāskali, the son of Vāskala, collected *Vāla-khilya hymns* (suppliments) mentioned in the closing part of the 8th Mandala of the Rgveda and taught them to his pupils Vālāyani, Bhajya and Kāsāra who were demons. These Vālakhilya sūktas (ie. sūktas 49-59 of the 8th Maṇḍala of the Rgveda) were composed long after the division of the Vedas.

The Vedic gods are divided mainly into three classes—celestial, aerial and terrestrial. This is suggested by the following texts of the Rg-veda also. सूय्यो नो दिवस्पानु चातोऽन्तरिक्षादग्निर्. पार्थिवेभ्यः (X 158 1); तम् अकृन्वन् ओधाभुवेकम् (X. 88. 10) and एक सद्विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति अग्निं यम मातरिश्वानमाहुः (I 164 46). According to the expounders of निरुक्त (७।२) there are only three gods, Agni on earth, Indra or Vāyu in the air and the sun in heaven. These three places of their abode are known as three व्याहृतिs by the name of सु, भुव. and स्वर्. The celestial gods are Dyuh, Varuna, Mitrā, Savitā, Pushā, Aświns, and the goddesses Ushā, and Rātri. The aerial gods are Indra, Rudra and Maruts, while the terrestrial gods are Agni, water, Prthivī and Soma. Father Manu acknowledges eleven manifestations of the unity of godhead, as suggested by Viśvāmītra also in accordance

Vedic gods—their divisions.

Nirukta and the number of Vedic gods.

Celestial Aerial and terrestrial gods.

Manu on the point.

Śatapatha Brāhman.	with the diverging capacities of knowledge of the worshippers. These eleven according to their three-fold abodes grew to be thirty-three. The Śatapatha Brāhman (4 5 72) also mentions the same number
Rgveda	There are passages in the Rgveda which mention more than 33 gods Rgveda (III. 9. 9 and X 52. 6) speaks of 3339 gods.
Purānas	This number in Paurānic age increased to 33 crores In reality, there is but one God, who according to his functions of pro-
Unity of godhead as found in the Rgveda	tecting, showering, burning, purifying etc., is termed multifarious according as the case may be The Vedic texts “नामानि ते शतक्रतो- र्विश्वाभिर्गीभिरीमहे ” (R.V III 37 3) , इन्द्रो- मायाभिः पुरुरूपमीयते ” (R V VI. 47. 18), “ नहि न ते महिमान समन्य” (R V. VI 27 3), ‘न ते महित्व- मन्यभ्रुवन्ति’ (R V VII 99 1), भुवनस्य पितरं गीर्भिराभि (R V VI 49. 10), आस्य जानन्तोनाम चिद्विक्तन (R V. I 106 3), यस्येमे हिमवन्तो महित्वा (R V X 121. 4), सहस्राणि सहस्रशो ये रुद्रा अधि- भूम्याम् (Vāj Samh. XVI 53 54) etc, are nothing but penegyrics on the desired deity for showing his omnipotence Aitareya Āranyaka (III 11 4 1) clearly states this unity in the expression “आत्मा वा इदमेक एवाग्रश्चासीत् ।” This Soul, as conceived by Vedic sages, is the presiding deity of the solar disc This is corroborated by later Upanisads and Purānas also. Therefore
Upanisads and Ārany- kas and Purānas on the matter.	

all other gods, as enumerated in the देवताकाण्ड of निरुक्त or बृहद्देवता, are but सूर्य and his reflections

From the above description of gods some scholars have jumped to the conclusion that Vedic Aryans were worshippers of nature personified. But little value can be attached to this conclusion. It is known to the readers of Vedic literature and classical literature as well that the Aryans acknowledged a presiding deity of everything, animate or inanimate. The address “आप. एन क्लियन्तु”, “स्वधिति. एन त्रायस्व” etc., is not to insentient water or razor but to their presiding deities. The line “महत् देवानाम् अष्टरत्वमेकम्” repeated at the end of every verse of the hymn III 55 of the Rgveda and the line “सूर्य आत्मा जगतस्तत्स्थुषश्च” (R V I 115. 1) are sufficient proofs to show that the Indo-Aryans were not worshippers of nature, as it is but they worshipped the spirit in it. The expression “तदेव ब्रह्म त्व विद्धि नेदं यदिदमुपासते” repeated at the end of every verse of the Kena Upanisad I 4-8 is a convincing explanation of what has been said before and indicates the nature and form of worship they were accustomed to. This finally developed into मधुविद्या, a source of immortality which a man aspires after.

Were Vedic
Aryans
worshippers
of nature ?

The Vedas
and
Upanisads.

Nature of
worship.

Nature of
Vedic gods

The Vedic gods are sometimes spoke of as immortal and sometimes as being born. Thus we find in the Vedas that the gods are born of *धावापृथिवी* ; *ऊषा* is the mother of the gods and *ब्रह्मणस्पति* their father and so on. Vedic gods are sometimes described as fighting with one another and are represented to be too powerful for mortals. Man dares not disregard their mandates. They control all creatures and it is the alone who can live in the region where *Visnu* took his three strides. They attained immortality by drinking the soma-juice. They reward the good and punish the wicked. They never forgive those who neglect sacred rites. They being omniscient can read the minds of man and come to take part even in sacrifice contemplated but not yet offered.

Vedic
religion.

However dim the picture may be it is plain that the religion of the Vedic Aryans differed in many respects from that of modern Hindus. At the same time it is undeniable that the germ of modern Hinduism is to be found in the Vedas. Even, hatred for cow-slaughter and abhorrence for beef, which are now so prominent marks of Hindu orthodoxy, were equally so in Vedic times. Some scholars are inclined to believe that the Indo-Aryans

sacrificed cows freely and ate both beef and horse-flesh on ceremonial occasions. But there is no direct proof, as has been proved by late Umeśa Candra Vatavyāla in his "Veda Prokāśikā" (pp. 112-139), in the text of the Veda to corroborate the statement There are, no doubt, stray references to the slaughter of cows and horses, which are given by way of illustration, but they do not bear testimony to the direct usage of the time. In the age of the Sūtras and classical literature these were twisted and fabricated to prove the use of beef in food etc, but such attempts have proved absolutely abortive

Slaughter
of cow and
horse and
use of
beef etc

It is very difficult to ascertain if the religion of the Rgveda is monotheistic, or polytheistic ¹ i e, whether the Veda admits the worship of one god or of many gods At first sight the religion of the Veda seems to be of a polytheistic nature, for in it *Indra*, *Vāyu*, *Varuna*, *Agni* and many other gods are invoked. But in some passages we see that all the different gods, such as, *Agni*, *Yama*, *Mātariśvā* &c. are said to be the various manifestations of one and the same god ¹ But such

Nature of
Vedic
religion.

Polytheism.

¹ Cf 1, 146, 46 and 10 114. 5 &c, of the Rgveda.

passages being only a few in number, polytheism may reasonably be accepted as the nature of the Vedic religion. Polytheism in the general sense of the term means an organised system of gods subordinate to one god, but in the Vedas each god is supreme in himself and not subordinate to any one. But here it may be pointed out that Prof. MaxMuller, in order to solve this difficulty, has proposed two names Kathenethism and Henotheism for the religion of the Veda. The former means the worship of one god after another and the latter the worship of a single god.

The term Vedic Pantheon, as suggested by some scholars, though not appropriately suitable to Vedic religion, still contains the germs of later religious developments. Modern scholars shrink from giving the name Fetichism, Polytheism, Monotheism, Pantheism, or Henotheism to the religion of the Veda. With a view to solve the difficulty, an Indian scholar has suggested the name विश्वदेववाद (Vide वेदप्रकाशिका by Umes Candra Vatavyāla, p 215) for the Vedic religion. He comes to this conclusion from a hymn of the Rgveda (III 55) revealed to famous Visvāmītra wherein the unity of Godhead

Katheno
theism and
Henotheism

Vedic Pan
theon etc

Visvadeva
vāda—co
rroborated
by the
Veda and
Upanisads

is acknowledged inspite of apparent mutli-
plicity This idea of unity developed
into ब्रह्म in the Upanisad The following
text of the ऐतरेय ब्राह्मण echoes the sense
of this in the following manner अग्नि is
the last of all gods and विष्णु is the
first of them all. All other gods lie between
them Agni is all gods, Visnu is all gods.
विश्वदेव निविद् is fraught with this idea.

Vedic Gods.

1 *Dyāvā-Prthivī*—They are described as the
most ancient and the parents of all the gods or
supreme parents. Prayers are offered to them for
various blessings. Six hymns are dedicated to *Dyāvā-
Prthivī* It is very curious to note that heaven and
earth are paradoxically described as created by the
mighty god, *Indra*, *Dhātā* and *Visvakarmā* as well.

It would not be out of place to mention here that
the gods are described in one passage (10 63. 2) as
having three-fold origin—*Aditi*, the *waters* and the
earth

2. *Aditi*—No separate hymn has been dedicated
in praise of this goddess but she is often prayed for
protection, welfare, safety and forgiveness of sin.

She is the mighty mother of the gods and the head of the females and household gods. She is the mother of the devout and the presiding deity of all ceremonials. The protecting and the guiding deities *Mitra*, *Varuna* and *Aryamā* have sprung from her. She is the mother of the *Rudras*, the daughter of *Vasus*, and the sister of the *Ādityas*. She has sons and brothers. The passages of the Rgveda give her a very gloomy and inexplicable character. She came of उत्तानपद and from her came the regions. She is the mother and daughter of Dakṣa by reciprocal generation. But this Dakṣa in paurāṇic age became one of the mind-begotten sons of ब्रह्मा, and अदिति one of the numerous daughters of दत्त. She with her eleven sisters was given in marriage to Kāśyapa. The western scholars give a philosophical meaning to this name. They identify Aditi with eternity and say that she is imperishable.

3 *The Ādityas*—They are sons of अदिति. The passages of the Rgveda vary as to their number. In one place (II 27) *Mitra*, *Aryamā*, *Bhaga*, *Varuna*, *Dakṣa* and *Amsā* are said to be Ādityas, in another place they are said to be seven in number (IX. 114). Again we find that *Aditi* has eight sons (X. 72). Sūrya is taken to be one of them. In the Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa they are said to be eight in number—(1) मित्र (2) वरुण (3) धातु (4) अर्यमन् (5) अश्व (6) भग (7) इन्द्र (8) and विवस्वत्. In the Atharva Veda the number has reached nine. According to the Śatpatha Brāhmaṇa there are twelve Ādityas in twelve months. There is a very interesting

legend in connection with the birth of the Ādityas. A cake ब्रह्मौजा by name being cooked was given to अदिति who eating a part of it conceived and gave birth to धाता and अयेमा and then taking another part she produced मित्र and वरुण. This process was repeated twice again and अश and भग and इन्द्र and विवस्वत् came in turn. In the paurāṇic age the number of आदित्यs reached twelve.

4 *Mitra*—He represents the beneficent side of the Sun's power and is worshipped constantly with Varuna. According to the Atharva Veda he is the presiding deity of sun-rise. Only one separate hymn has been singly addressed to him. He is generally invoked in conjunction with Varuna. These two deities are respectively the presiding gods of the day and night. He rules over the sky and upholds it. He placed the sun in the heavens and protects the world. He promotes the religious rites and looks upon men below and their actions.

5 *Varuna*—He is an important deity of the sky. Though invoked in a small number of hymns (12), he is one of the greatest Vedic gods. He upholds the moral and physical order and at his bidding the sun, the moon, the stars and the air move in their respective path. He is the god of rain who makes the rivers flow into the sea. He is omniscient and everything true and false in humanity comes to his cognisance. There are many passages in the Rgveda which speak of Varuna's spies. He cannot brook any

infringement of law and order and he saves people from their own sins as well as sins of heredity. He has created the sun. Vāyu is his breath. He, at his sweet will, can change the span of human life (I. 244 11, vii 88, 4). In brief, devotees derive all kinds of worldly good from him. The name Varuna is derived from the root वृञ् (to cover) and thus he is the god that envelops the wicked in his snare and rules over the righteous. According to Sāyana he is nothing but the setting sun. He seems to resemble *Uranos* of the Greek mythology.

6 *Dhātā*—In the Vedic literature the conception of the creator or Prajāpati has been made in two different ways. In one place he has taken the position of God the creator, and in another he is supposed to be one of the 33 gods. He is the sole agent of the universe which lies wholly immersed in him. In the R̥gveda *Dhātā* has been used as an epithet for सवितृ, सोम and हिरण्यगर्भे. In the Atharva Veda he is said to be born of either *time, life* or *sacrificial vands*. There are some passages in the *Śatapatha Br̥hman* in his praise.

7 *Aryamā*—He is also a deity of the sky and is the head of the *Pitrs* or *Manes*.

8. *Amśa* and *Bhaga*—They are, each, a form of the sun or Āditya.

9 *Vivasvān*—He is the most concrete deity of the sky. He is all-seer and beholds the good and bad actions of the mortals. All that are animate

and inanimate do their respective works, being guided by him. His chariot is drawn by seven steeds. He rolls up the darkness and the stars vanish at his presence. He is described as the husband of *Dawn*. Disease and evil dreams fly away before him.

10. *Savitā*—Eleven whole hymns have been addressed to this solar deity. He quickens the activity of the sun. He is a golden deity and rides a golden car. He drives away demons and evil dreams. He conducts the departed souls to the place where the good dwell. All the gods follow his lead. The most important verse of the Rg-veda, the *Gāyatrī*, is addressed to him

11 *Pūsā*—He seems to be the beneficent power of the sun. He is a pastoral deity and his car is drawn by goats. He carries a goad in his hand and leads the dead to the region of *Fathers*. He is a guardian deity of the roads. He is celebrated in eight hymns

12 *Viśnu*—He is one of the important solar deities though invoked less frequently than the other solar gods. Though not so prominent as Indra, Agni and others in the Vedic age, yet he came to occupy an important position in the paurāṇic age and has survived as one of the three gods of the Hindu Trinity. He traverses the region of the sky through the three divisions of the universe and this perhaps has created the tale of the three steps of Viṣṇu in his Vāmana incarnation. *Viśnu* as a Vedic name is a compound

form of the two words V_2 =through and Snu (or $Sānu$)=back¹ Hence $Viśnu$ originally meant "through the back" This explains his taking three strides, occasional reference to which can be found in the $Rgveda$

N B. The gods $Ādityas$, $Mitra$, $Varuna$, $Dhātā$, $Aryamā$, $Amśa$, $Bhaga$, $Vivasvān$, $Savitā$, $Pūsā$ and $Viśnu$, are but the different manifestations of the $Sūrya$ According to $Sāyana$ the form of the sun before sun-rise is $Savitā$ and the form from sun-rise to sun-set, is the sun. $Aryamā$ divides the day and night He occupies the intermediate position between $Mitra$ and $Varuna$. The morning follows the dawn and then is the time for the rising of $Bhaga$. The sun with mild ray is called $Pūsā$. $Pūsā$ is followed by $Arka$ or $Aryamā$ The time called पूर्वाह्न closes with $Aryama$ The mid-day sun is termed $Viśnu$ According to $Nirukta$, $Pūsā$ is the guardian deity of all beings.

13 *Indra*—He is the greatest and mightiest of the Vedic gods His father and mother also are described as a great hero and heroine in some passages of the $Rgveda$ and even just after his birth he excelled them both in prowess He is called the son of $Nestigrī$ meaning one who subdues her rival and hence she is अदिति² In the अथर्ववेद we get that $Ekāstakā$ ³ bore him and with his help

¹ $Rgveda$ —1 155 3, 5.

² 10, 102. 12— $Rgveda$

³ 3, 10, 12 $Atharva Veda$

the gods defeated their enemies, and this slayer of the enemy became the lord of Śacī. The purāṇas call him the son of कश्यप and अदिति. The Rgveda says that the gods made him kill the demons and again in the *Purusa-sūkta* he is described as having sprung from the mouth of विराट्. Again we find that Soma procreated him. Both in the Rgveda and the *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* we find that *Indrāṇī*, the wife of Indra, is very fortunate among goddesses and that her head-dress is of various forms. Indra is strong both mentally and physically. He is ever young, martial, immortal, bright and all-conquering.

He possesses unbounded wisdom and irresistible prowess, and is the wielder of the thunderbolt (Vajra). His physical features have been very often described. He can assume any shape at will. He placed the sun in the sky and all gods yielded to his valour and strength. He is the ruler of the sky, the earth, the waters and the mountains. In brief, his sway extends over the whole external world. He is known as the friend of his worshippers and is very often invoked by warriors. He is borne on bright golden car drawn by swift steeds. He appears on the sacrificial grounds of the worshippers to grant them their wishes. His thunderbolt seems to be made by Tvastrā. Kāvya Uśanāh is said to have given him this weapon. Again we find that the gods provided him with thunderbolt after the first day's sacrificial ceremony. This Vajra is sometimes described as made of gold.

and sometimes of *ayas* or iron, having thousand points. Indra is also described as furnished with arrows and a goad. According to Atharva Veda he has a net in his hand to entrap his foes. He killed *Vrtra*, the obstructor of rain. In his warfare with *Vrtra* he was greatly helped by his friends, the *Maruts* (the storm gods) and *Visnu*. Heaven and earth quaked in fear at the crash of the thunder of Indra. He killed *Vrtra* and caused the waters which were held back to flow in torrents. Some occasional sinful traits also appear in his character. He slew his father and destroyed the car of the Dawn. He was addicted to the drink of the *soma* juice. In the *Avesta* he is described as a demon and not as a god. Though uncertain in character, it appears that there was a deity in the Indo-Iranian period akin to the Vedic form of Indra.

14. *Agni*—This god has a three-fold origin. He is born on earth, in air and in heaven. He is the most important terrestrial deity. He is invoked in some 200 hymns and his place is next to Indra's. Because of the oblation of ghee cast in the fire he is styled butter-backed, butter-faced and butter-haired. He is also termed flame-haired and has a tawny beard. He has sharp and shining teeth with which he eats the forest. His swift motion is often compared to swift-winged arrow or the flight of a bird. His flames resemble the roaring waves of the sea. He is carried on a bright car drawn by two or three steeds. He is called smoke-bannered.

He is often described as being produced from friction of two fire-sticks (*arani*) He is called the son of Strength and the grandson of Water. He is both the youngest and the oldest of all gods. He is a prototype of the later Rgvedic triad,—Sun, Wind and Fire as well as of the triad,—Sun, Indra and Fire and is probably the progenitor of the paurāṇic trinity—Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva The terrestrial fires being many in number, Agni is said to have many births He is a priest, *i e.*, conductor of oblations to the gods He with his thousand eyes keeps watch over his worshippers He showers rain from heaven and is like a spring in the desert. He drives away goblins with his light

15 *Dyauh*—He seems to resemble the Greek god Zeus and is the oldest among the gods of heaven. Dyauh is often invoked in conjunction with Prithivī He is compared with a bull or a black steed. He wields a bolt in his hand Whenever he is personified as a celestial deity he generally appears in the dual form of Dyāvāprthivī

16 *Usā*—There are some 20 fine hymns addressed to this goddess. Songs sung in her praise are the finest religious lyrics in the literature of the world She is the daughter of Dyauh and is born in the sky Night is often spoken of as the dark sister of this bright deity. She is the wife of Sūrya, who follows her track, as a youth does a maiden's. Her well-adorned massive car is drawn by ruddy

steeds or kine She appears in the east with her charms unveiled This young deity of matchless beauty throws wide the gates of heaven and darkness flies hurriedly before her She enlivens everything and is the soul and beauty of sweet sounds She appears everyday on the horizon at the appointed hour and never violates the laws of God

17 *Rudra*—There are only three entire hymns in the Rgveda addressed to this deity He carries a bow and arrows and also a thunderbolt in his hands He is of a fierce and destructive nature The name Śiva, assigned to him in the later Vedas, find prominent mention in the post-Vedic literature In spite of his malevolent nature, he bestows blessings upon men and beasts There are occasional references to his healing power, which perhaps are responsible to make him the master of medicine in the *Tāntrika* age.

18 *Maruts*—They are sons of Rudra and Prishnī. They are further said to have been born of Varuna in the womb of Heaven Sometimes they are called self-born. Of the group-gods Maruts occupy a high position in the Rgveda They are invoked in 33 entire hymns. As to their number the R V. 52. 17 has 'सप्तमे सप्त शक्तिः'. The scholiast has taken this to mean 49 on the authority of the purāṇas But the rk VIII. 28. 2 speaks clearly of seven Maruts (this also may refer to their seven groups, each containing seven). In rk VIII. 96. 8. their number is

found to be sixty-three. According to Prof. Macdonell "Their number is thrice seven or thrice sixty" They are often said to be brilliant, golden, ruddy, and self-luminous. They are youthful warriors and wield spears of lightning and battle axes They are armed also with bows and arrows They are borne on a golden car drawn by spotted horses. They make great havoc on forests and shed rain below They are friend of Indra and help him in his contest with the demons The goddess Rodasī is often mentioned in connection with them They wear golden helmets Thunder and roaring of the winds are said to be their noise They make mountains and earth quake They are singers of heaven. As it appears from the Rgveda they are "storm-gods"

19 *Vāyu*—He is invoked in three hymns. His movement is very fast He rides on a shining car drawn by two ruddy steeds He is a constant companion of Indra It is he who makes all creatures live

20 *Yama*—He is the god of the next world He carries the dead to their appointed abodes Two fierce dogs guard his region

21. *Waters*—They are invoked as goddesses in four hymns of the Rgveda. They are described as mothers and young wives who bestow blessings on the worshippers

22 *Soma*—He is the chief god of the Soma sacrifices The entire ninth Maṇḍala is devoted to his praise Besides, there are some scattered hymns

addressed to this deity. He occupies the third place among the Vedic gods. In the Soma sacrifice the soma-creeper is pounded and twisted by ten maidens. Then this juice is filtered by a sieve of sheep's wool and used in the sacrifice. The priest after the completion of the ceremony takes a drink of the remaining juice along with the *yaṇamāna*. It was believed that it imparts everlasting life. This plant grows on mountains. The first home of soma-creeper was in heaven and it was brought therefrom to mountains by eagles. In some places it is identified with the moon. Yajurveda speaks of the lunar mansions as his wives. In post-vedic literature it is a common name of the moon.

23 *Purusa*—He is praised in the celebrated hymn of the Rgveda known as Purusa Sūkta (X 90). It is one of the cosmogonic hymns as therein is found the description of creation of everything—the Vedas, the castes, the birds, the beasts, the trees and so on. The act of creation is treated of as a sacrifice, the embodiment of Purusa. Judging from its language, the modern scholars think this to be a hymn of very late origin. But language alone is never sufficient for such a conclusion. This Purusa is no other than ब्रह्म of the Upaniṣads.

24 *Visvadevas*—They are a group of gods invoked in more than sixty hymns of the Rgveda where they occupy a very important position. विष्णु of the Gīta has certainly originated from the idea

of this group of gods meaning 'all gods' The idea of the unity of Godhead has also sprung from this.

25. *Viśvakarmā* —His name is first heard in the tenth Mandala of the Rgveda He is identified with the Sun and Indra. He is the regulator of all universal laws In fact the creative power of the great God is described in the guise of this allegorical name So he is called *धाता* and *प्रजापति* He is possessed of innumerable eyes, mouths, hands and feet. He is the father of all and beyond conception of mortals He is munificent and wholesome. In the paurāṇic age he became the architect of gods

26 *Rbhu* —Angirāḥ had a son Sūdhanvā who was the father of Rbhu, Vibhu and Vāja. They attained to the state of divinity by their own actions They dwell in the solar region According to Sāyaṇa they are nothing but sun-beams They have been invoked in 11 hymns They are once said to be the sons of Indra Their car is drawn by strong steeds They are artisans of gods and created the horse of Indra through mental power Their skill in action has been stated in many passages of the Rgveda ¹ *वृत्र्युः*, carpenters by profession, entered into the rank of priests by virtue of their merits They had no definite gods for their worship In course of time they became worshippers of Rbhū. According to Sāyaṇa they are disciples of *त्वष्टा* They are otherwise known as *श्रुमुज्जास*. Maxmuller takes them

¹ R.V IV. 347, 33, I. 161, 20 3, 4, 6, 110 8 etc

to occupy the same position with the Greek Orpheus. Besides, he traces the origin of the tale of Pururavaḥ and Urvasī to them

27. *Aśvins* — They have been adored in more than 50 hymns. This pair occupies a very high position in the Rgveda like Agni, Varuna and Indra. They are the gods of the firmament. They are sons of त्रिवस्वान् and सरण्यु. They are further described as sons of रुद्र and सिन्धु (R V 5 75 3 & I 46 2). They are both old and new. They are immortal and wear lotus garlands and ride on a car of hundred wheels carried by six young steeds. Their car is also said to be borne by asses and buffaloes. They have a ship also furnished with a hundred oars. They are conversant with the science known as मधुविद्या or secret of immortality. They are very fond of soma-drink and they cure diseases. They are divine physicians. They too, like Rbhus, were at first men and then raised to the status of god. There are many legends in connection with them¹. Yāska in the Nirukta speaks of his different identifications according to different scholars². Some take them to be the morning and the evening stars. Greek mythology has the tale of the twin sons of Zeus. This has led Mr Macdonell to think that they were the gods of old Indo-European Aryans.

¹ R V I 116; I 117 7, 8, 20, 24 etc.

² “तत्कौ अश्विनौ ! चावापृथिव्यौ इत्येके, अहोरात्रौ इत्यन्ये ; सूर्याचन्द्रमसौ इत्येके, राजानौ पुण्यकृताविति ऐतिहासिकाः ।”

28 *Parjanya* —He is an unimportant deity and has been invoked only in three hymns. He is the god of shower. He makes the herbs and the earth strong. He rears cattle. He is the father of the universe. He is the son of heaven. He has close connection with Indra, Maruts and Fire.

29 *Brahmanaspati*.—Both Brahmanaspati and Brhaspati have been derived from the root बृह meaning most voluminous. Brahmanaspati, according to some scholars, is a reciter of mantras, who attained divinity. He is rich in wealth and cures diseases. He sees all and showers rain. He dispels darkness. He befriends them who adore him and kills them who speak ill of him.

30 *Brhaspati* —He has been adored in 11 hymns. He sprung first in the highest heaven. He is possessed of seven mouths and seven rays. He is honey-tongued and black-backed. He is destroyer of demons, renderer of clouds and giver of the fruits of sacrifice. He leads one to heaven. He is the son of आवापृथिवी. He dwells like Agni in all the three regions. He is the guardian of horses and protector of mantras. He is a priest. In paurāṇic age he became solely the priest of gods as शुक्र became of the demons.

31. *Sarasvatī* —The word literary means a lustrous one. She is otherwise known as वाग्देवी or presiding deity of the Vedas. The word indicates a river of the name as well. Sāyaṇa takes the word

in these two senses. At last she has been reduced to our modern Sarasvatī personified

32 *Pitṛloka* —The manes like gods live in heaven and come to the sacrifice with them. The region they live in is also called पितृलोक situated in the middle of the sky. They associate with Yama and pass their time merrily with him. If they are pleased, a man thrives in every way. If it is they who bedeck the sky with the garland of stars and keep up darkness at night and brightness at day. They make the Dawn appear and spread over the heaven and earth in conjunction with Soma.

N B Besides these there are numerous minor gods, such as, Night, River, Forests, Guardian deities of houses and fields, Cow, Ghee, Horses, Vulture, Frog, Dadhikrā, Pitu, Herbs, Tārksya bird, Māyā, Mānya, Śraddhā, King, Dice, Mind, Preta, Yama, Lakshmī, Alaksmī, etc. There is a hymn to ब्रह्मज्ञान also. Besides we get a number of hymns towards the close of the Rgveda for warding off evils in the shape of destroying co-wives and rendering evil dreams ineffective and so on.

Abstract deities —Prof Macdonell says "One result of the advances of thought during the period of the Rgveda from the concrete towards the abstract was the rise of abstract deities. ..There are a few other abstract deities whose names were originally epithets of older gods, but now became epithet of the supreme god who was being evolved at the

end of the Rgvedic period...The second and smaller class of abstract deities comprises personifications of abstract nouns. These are *Manyu*, *Śradhā*, *Smibhūti*, *Anumati*, etc''. Most of these abstract deities, however, in our opinion, are not independent deities but they represent worshipper's bent of mind indulging in such personifications

Goddesses.—'Goddesses play an insignificant part in the Rgveda' The only one important deity is *Usā*. Next to her are the *Sarasvatī* and *Vāk*. *Prithivī*, *Ratnī* and *Aranyānī* also are worshipped

Dual Deities—Gods are sometimes invoked in pairs. Of such pairs the names of मित्रावरुणौ, इन्द्राग्नी, सूर्याचन्द्रमसौ, अग्नीषोमौ and चावापृथिवी are important

Groups of Deities—There are a few deities who are worshipped in groups. These are the *Maruts*, the *Viśvedevas*, the *Ādityas*, the *Vasus* and the *Rudras*.

Lesser divinities—Besides the higher gods, a number of lesser gods also is invoked in the Rgveda. The most important of them are the *Rbhus*, the *Apsarās*, the *Gandharvas*, *Vāstospati* and others.

Besides these there, is a number of hymns which is not addressed to any deity but is entirely confined to magical charms

Secular hymns—There are about a score of hymns dealing with secular matters. These hymns throw some light on the

These hymns point to many old rites and customs.

earliest thought and civilisation of India. From the wedding hymn (X, 85) and the funeral hymns (X. 14-8) we can gather many social and religious rites and customs of the period

Mythology
still in the
making

Source of
drama and
ballad
poetry

Samvāda hymns or Mythological dialogues—There are some seven mythological dialogues in the Rgveda. In some of them (IV 62, X 51-86 etc.) the speakers are divine beings, while in others they are human. In 10 95 Pururava, a mortal, converses with *Urvasī*, a celestial nymph. This story after a long lapse of time, was taken by Kālidās as the central plot of his drama *Vikramorvaśiyam*. The conversation between Yama and Yamī, (X 10), the twin parents of human race, has also a special literary interest as precursors of dramatic works of later age. These are specimens of Vedic ballads. "The *Surja-sukta* (X 85) may also be included in the Rgvedic ballad poetry"

These are
fraught
with moral
instructions

Didactic hymns—The hymn X 34 is a striking piece, in which a gambler is rueful on account of his bringing ruin and misery over his family owing to his addiction to the dice. The hymn IX 112 describes various ways of gain. In X 71 there is praise of wise speech, while X. 117 speaks of the merit of good deeds.

Riddles —The hymns viii 29 and I 146 contain riddles. In the former various gods are invoked without their names and in the latter the sun is invoked in mystical and symbolic language.

Meanings
are obscure

Vedic Philosophy —Philosophical ideas and the germs of the doctrines of the Upanisads are found in the hymns of the Rgveda. Close study of the Veda reveals how the philosophical ideas developed in the mind of the Vedic Aryans. The apparent worship of Nature and natural phenomena as manifestations of God, by the ancient sages, gradually led them to the idea of one God¹. It is found in the tenth Mandala that people after their death live in the region of Yama. The spirits pass through the road Pitryāna and revel with Yama and feast with the gods. They partake of the offerings by their sons on the stalks of the *kuśa-grass* and bless them in return. People live a pleasurable life in the realm of Yama. The Atharvaveda speaks of a place of punishment as well. The Nāsadiya Sūkta of the tenth Mandala (X. 129) expresses vividly for the first time the primitive forms of Indian thought.

Philosophy
of the Veda
and its later
development.

Idea of
death and
next world.

Idea of hell

¹ RV I. 164 20, 21, 29, 33, 46

Germ of
Vedantic
philosophy

Herein we find the fundamental doctrines of the Upanishads, *i.e.*, the emanation of the world and *jīva* out of one reality, the self. This self creates all things through the agency of *māyā* or unreality. All other things except self is *असत्* or unreal, it only is *सत्* or real. These philosophical ideas were first developed in the Upanishads, the later Indian philosophical works.

Vedic Cosmogony

Theory of
creation—
oriental and
occidental

Many theories have been advanced by eminent scholars in different countries about creation according to their mode of culture and education. Some hold that the universe is the result of a self-evolved process without any external agency. Creation by external agency is the opinion of others. There is besides a theory of self-existence. This, we think, is an existence independent of any agency and hence without a beginning. As one scholar puts it, "The hypothesis of self-creation, which practically amounts to what is called pantheism, is incapable of being represented in thought".

There are references to certain phenomena, such as, the precepitation of invisible vapour into cloud, that forms a symbolic conception of a self evolved universe. It is, according to Spencer, the "Atheistic theory" (नास्तिक्यवाद) The theory of self-creation corresponds to the *Āstikyavāda* in Sanskrit.

The theory of creation engaged the serious attention of the Vedic Aryans also. They were struck with wonder to see this wondrous world about them and their mind was naturally convulsed with the discussion of its creator. "We do not know" they said "the exact nature of the primordial Cause of this creation". The hymn X 70 says how in the *Iuga* preceding that of the gods the manifested world came out of the unmanifested one. This was the idea in the beginning of the so called *Devayuga* also. Then came the sky, the trees, the earth and the directions. Aditya generated Dakṣa and Dakṣa generated Aditya. "This Aditya, O, Dakṣa, who is your daughter, generated the gods who are auspicious and friendly to men" So sings the 72nd Sūkta of the 10th Maṇḍala. The 29th hymn of the 10th Maṇḍala which is popularly known as नासदीय सूक्त (as it begins with नासदासीत् etc.) thus speaks of the cosmic condition. "There was none

Theory of
creation
according
to Vedic
Aryans

Nāsadiya
sūkta—the
process of
creation.

that covered. There was neither the sky nor the highest heaven. There was no relative position of things or water deep and unassailable. There was neither death nor immortality, nor there was distinction between day and night. There was nothing but darkness and there was water all around. Volition arose first upon the mind, which is the germ of all creation. Then appeared the almighty *Isa*, the *Huanyagarbha*, the *Virāt* and the *Jīvas*. The process of creation is not known to any body, nay, not even to *Isa*, who lords it over everything visible or invisible." From the above it is clear that the idea of Vedic creation was quite different from the old Hebrew idea according to which the God takes clay and moulds a new creature as a potter moulds a vessel. The aforesaid volition of the mind is perhaps at the root of later *Karmavāda*. The verse 'विश्वतश्चक्षुस्त विश्वतोमुखः' etc (R.V. X 81 3) shows how *Viśvakarmā* creates the earth and the heaven. From it is also found the Vedantic idea that God is both instrumental and material cause of the universe. Both the world and its creator are eternal. The former is eternal like the current of a river (प्रवाहिनित्य), while the latter is eternal without any reference to time and space (कूटस्थनित्य). Dissolution

The Vedic
and Hebrew
theory con-
trasted

Germ of
modern
Vedantism.

means apparent absorption of cosmic matters in the final cause and not their utter annihilation. This explains the dictum “नाशः कारणलये”. The verse viii 8 98 of the Rgveda declares the resemblance of the present creation to the past ones. The hymn X 90 (which is popularly known as पुरुषसूक्त) is the best of the cosmic hymns and in it is found an elaborate and vivid description of creation. Another description of creation, is met with in the Hamsavati Rk (iv 40), where the sage Vāmadeva speaks of the all-pervading Paramātmā. The Puruṣa Sūkta describes how all the four Vedas, the four castes (Brahmana, Kṣattriya, Vaiśya and Śūdra), the trees, the birds, the beasts, the luminaries, in short all the sentient and insentient beings of the universe, came out of the body of Puruṣa. The last verse of this Puruṣa Sūkta and the 2nd verse of the 37th hymn of the 10th Maṇḍala hint at the truth lying in the stanza—“अग्नौ प्रास्ताहुत सम्यक् आदित्यमुपतिष्ठते । आदिताज्जायते बुद्धिः बृष्टेरक्ष तत्त. प्रजा ॥, The oblations offered unto Fire go to the Sun from whom proceeds rain that sustains the world. The famous Devī-sūkta (R V. X 125) speaks of some mighty power that pervades all gods, all actions, all sacrifices and all strength. Judging all these things closely and carefully it can safely be said

What is the Veda meant for ?

that the modern theory of self-creation is but an echo of the Vedic Parināmvāda, though there is a considerable difference between these two. The Vedas while speaking of the eternity of the cosmos, have not done away entirely with the agency of the creator but some western philosophers (Spencer and his followers) deny the existence of the creator and do not find his hand in the work of creation.

The Social and Political condition of Rgvedic India

The Rgveda throws a flood of light upon the social and political condition of the Aryans of that time. There are some eminent scholars who believe that the Vedic Aryans were a nomadic and pastoral people. This view rests perhaps on the frequent solicitations for food and for cattle. But it is not corroborated by any positive statement. There is, on the contrary, a number of hymns which rather show that they had fixed dwellings, villages and magnificent and fortified towns.¹

Were the
Vedic
Aryans a
nomadic
tribe?

Agriculture.

¹ R.V. II. 41. 1, IV. 30. 3, V. 62. 1, VI. 46. 2; VII. 95. 1 etc.

They might have been pastoral to some extent, but they were in a still greater degree an agricultural people, as is evidenced by their prayer for copious showers of rain and for the fertility of the soil ¹

They were a manufacturing people as well Reference to the arts of weaving (2 3 2 , 6 9 1 etc), carpentry (4 2 3 , 4 16 6), the manufacture of golden and iron coats of mail (1 140 5 , 2 39 3 etc), manufacture of various arms and war materials, such as, bow, arrow, sword, helmet, war-chariot etc (5 52 1 , 5 57 1 , 6 27 3 , 6 47 4 , 6 75 1 , 2 34 2 , etc) bear testimony to the above fact

Manufacture
of various
things

It is specially remarkable that they were a mercantile and maritime people too (1 116 3 4 , 4 55 3 , 7 88 3 etc) They often asked their cherished deity to make their way, both in land and water, free from all sorts of obstructions, that they might carry their merchandise safe to their destination

Trade—
inland and
overseas.

The art of war too had attained perfection The Aryan kings fought against one another or against the non-Aryans of the soil They fought on foot or from chariots (6 47 8 , 6 47 26) Horses and elephants also were used in war (9 47 5 , 6 46 13 , 6 47 31 , 4 4 1) We have also the mention of a naval expedition against a foreign land (8 36) Reference

Warfare—
arms and
ammunitions.

¹ R V 1 3 8 , 1 4 3 , 1 95 15 , 4 57 , 8 22 1 etc

to aeroplanes also (I 116 3, I 118 1) support the above statement They had strong fortress too (7 3 7, 6 46 9). Arrows, spears and axes were prominent weapons of war Drums were beaten in the fields of war (6 47 29) There was an organised system of espionage (I 71. 4, 5 43 8) Cows, river-banks and fertile lands were mainly a cause for war (6 25 4) The twelve circle of kings was also known to them (I 73 3)

Knowledge
of
Astronomy.

They made some advance in astronomical computation also They made use of an intercalary month for the mutual adjustment of the solar and lunar years (I 25 8, I 164 15) They ascertained for the purpose of sacrifice the position of stars and planets There are stray references also to the diurnal and annual motions of the sun, the cause of day and night, the change of seasons, the winter and summer solstices, the signs of the Zodiac, and the rising and setting of some prominent stars¹ The mention of magnifying glass and solar eclipse is also met with (5 40 5) They also observed that the moon borrows her light from the sun (I. 84. 6) and that rain sets in with the beginning of the summer-solstice (6 32. 1) Besides, we find the mention of such natural phenomenon as *Aurora Borealis* (Vide Tilak's *The Arctic Home in the Vedas.*)

¹ R V. 1 123. 8, 1. 164. 12, 6 42 5, 10. 85. 45;
2. 36 1 etc

Men and women used to wear ornaments of gold and silver, such as, necklace, bracelet, anklets etc (4 37 2, 5. 35 1, 5. 58. 1 etc).

Metal
ornaments

Several forms of Hindu marriage such as, ब्राह्म, आसुर and स्वर्यवर were in vogue (10 85 22, 10 27 12). Monogamy was the rule and polygamy the exception. A widow could marry the younger brother of her husband (10 40 2), but there is no positive proof of widow-marriage. A man of higher caste could take a bride from a caste lower than his own (9 16. 2, 10 39 14).

Marriage—it
kinds

Distillation of wine was in practice. Some machineries also were in use (6 44 24).

Distillation
of wine

Surgery of a high order was known to them (1 116 15; 1 118 3).

Surgery.

Females along with males were highly educated. Some of them Apālā, Viś'vavārā, Ghosā, Sūrjā, Yamī) were even seers of Vedic hymns. The condition of women was highly superior to what we find now. There was no purdah system which is certainly an outcome of the Mahomedan rule. It is found in Bengal, the Punjab, and the North western provinces, where the Mahomedan rule was dominant, while women of Madras and Bombay still enjoy freedom of movement. They took part even in warfare. Though women were generally married in an advanced age, still it cannot be definitely said that early marriage was

Female edu-
cation and
their general
condition.

Age of
marriage.

unknown The conversation between Agastya and Lopāmudrā rather points to early marriage Women had a recognised position in the family Husbands and wives used to perform sacrifices jointly, as is also found in later times The wives preserved the sacred fire and performed other duties of the household Some women, as has already been mentioned, were seers of hymns Of these seers, the names of Lopāmudrā, wife of Agastya and Vāk are very important The hymn X 125 was revealed to the latter She seems to be power, knowledge and wealth incarnate The hymn contains, says the scholiast, the highest ideal of the conception of God and that these ideals are at the root of the modern Vedānta philosophy Lopāmudrā was a princess Though born and brought up in luxury, she led the humble life of an anchorite and followed her husband like a shadow The unmarried girls had a share in their father's property (2 17 7) A man without issue would take an adopted son and the son of his daughter would inherit his property (3 31 12).

Dainty dishes of cakes and sweets were used to be prepared (3 52. 13, 4 24 7). Gold and silver coins were in use. Weavers wove cloths both of fur and thread (2 38 4, 6. 9 12, 10 26. 6).

There were some bad practices, such as,

selling of a bride to an unworthy bride-groom, gambling, illicit connection with women, procuring abortion by unchaste women, use of black-art etc. Instances of chastity of women, theft, loan, burning of dead bodies, *srādh*, slaughter of animals and music etc. abound in the Rgveda

Good and
bad practices.

The Vedic Aryans, like the Vedantins of the modern times, divided things in two broad divisions—the sentient and the insentient. They firmly believed that *Ātma* alone is real and eternal and all other beings are transitory and perishable. They had belief in the theory of Transmigration of the soul (10 14 2, 10 15). They knew perfectly well that the body after death is decomposed and its various elements mix with similar subtle elements, but the eternal soul remains unchanged. The two paths, *Devajāna* and *Pitrjāna* were known to them. But their ideas of these two paths were quite different from what is understood by these now. They believed that the dead repair to the *Pitilok* by *Pitrjāna* and through *Devajāna* they go to heaven and are again born according to the dispensation of gods (X 16. 2—4). Yama leads them to the place of enjoyment and they see Yama and Varuṇa in the next world. The 14th hymn of Mandala X speaks of a pair of Yama's hounds, his sable attendants. They

Idea of the
world and
God.

Transmigra-
tion

Devajāna
and
Pitrjāna.

Yama and
Varuṇa—mas-
ters of the
next world.

say prayers to Yama with a view to get rid of his grim grasp

Heaven The description of heaven is very charming. It is full of light and nectar and is free from decay and death. Here desires are fully satisfied and the pleasures attained to are never annihilated.

Span of life. The usual span of life was a hundred years (II 27 7, III 362, V 543, VI 661, 10 85, 12 etc.).

Satee It is doubtful if Satee-rite was practised. The verses X 18 7-8 may only refer to a customary rite, as is evidenced by Gṛhya Sūtras.

Funeral. Both cremation and burial were in practice as in the present time. There are five funeral hymns in the Rgveda (X. 14—18). From the last of these we get information regarding the funeral process and the customs of the Vedic Aryans in connection with this ceremony. After burning the ashes were kept in a vessel or urn and then buried underneath the ground. At the time of burial several ṛks were uttered (R. V. X. 18 10-13). Agni carries the soul to the next world where the gods and manes ramble and dwell.

VEDIC MYTHOLOGY

Mythology has its source in the attempt of the human mind in a primitive and unscientific age to explain the various forces and pheno-

mena of nature with which it is confronted. The intellectual difficulties raised by the course of the heavenly bodies, by the incidents of the thunder storm, by reflexions of the other world, here receive their solutions in the form of stories. The basis of these myths is the primitive attitude of mind which regards all nature as an aggregate of animated entities. A myth actually arises when the imagination interprets a natural event as the action of a personified being resembling the human agent. An original myth enters on the further stage of practical embellishment as soon as it becomes the property of people endowed with creative imagination.

Origin and
Development
of
Mythology.

THE VEDAS AND THE SĀSTRAS—The original sacred books of the Hindus—reveal that all the objects and phenomena of nature with which man in the germinal state of civilisation is surrounded, are animate and divine. Everything that impressed the soul with awe or was regarded as capable of exercising a good or evil influence on man, might in the Vedic age still become a direct object not only of adoration but of prayer. The Vedic and the Paurāṇic mythologies are the inevitable product of the age and the country, and of social and climatic conditions.

Influence of
sacred
writings,

The most important source of Vedic mythology is the oldest literary monument of

Source of
mythology
and
theological
treatises

India, the Rgveda Its mythology deals with a number of co-ordinate nature-gods of varying importance Polytheism under the influence of an increasing tendency to abstraction at the end of the Rgvedic period exhibits in its latest book the beginnings of a kind of monotheism and even signs of pantheism This latter developed at first into the Paurāṇic *triad*--Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Ś'iva—and then into numerous paurāṇic gods The adoration of the deities in post Vedic times increased the volumes of the logical treatises

CASTE SYSTEM.

Was there
Caste-system
During the
Vedic age ?

Opinions of
scholars

Maxmuller

Weber

Roth

It is one of the most raging questions of the day if caste-system was prevalent during the Vedic ages and specially during the age of the Rgveda Scholars, both oriental and occidental, differ in their opinion some acknowledge the existence of caste from time immemorial, while others advocate its modernness 'Caste as now understood, says Maxmuller, 'is not a Vedic institution and in disregarding the rules of caste no command of the real Veda is violated'¹ Prof Weber too in his History of Indian Literature, while speaking of the Vedic period, writes, 'There are no castes as yet, the people is one undivided whole, and bears but one name that of Vis'as'² Prof Roth in his third

1 Chips from a German Workshop Vol. II, pp 307-8

2 Indian Literature P 38

Dissertation on the Literature and History of the Veda' (p 117) and in his paper on 'Brahma and the Brāhmanas' in the first volume of the journal of the German Oriental Society, speaks of the gradual growth of castes¹ Having quoted R V IV 50 4ff he continues, 'In this manner here and in many places of the liturgical and legal books, the promise of every blessing is attached to the maintenance of a priest by the king In as much as he supports and honours the priest, the latter ensures to him the favour of the gods So it was that the caste of the Brāhmanas arose and attained to power and consideration first they were only the single domestic priest of the kings, then the dignity became hereditary in certain families, finally a union occasioned by

How it
developed
in later
times?

How the
Brāhmanas
attained to
superior
position in
the society?

1 In his *Brahma and the Brāhmanas* he says, "The religious development of India is attached through the course of three thousand years to the word *Brahma*. The original signification of the word is that of prayer. From this oldest sense and the form *Brahma* (neuter) originated the masculine noun *Brahmā*, a particular priest at Vedic sacrifice and this at a later time developed into Brahmanical castes. In his third *Dissertation on the Literature and History of the Vedas* he remarks 'In the Vedic age, access to the gods by prayer and sacrifice was open to all classes of the community. Those people who conducted worship for others were styled *Purohita*. But these priests had as yet no especial sanctity or exclusive prerogative which could render their employment imperative."

similarity of interests, of these families in one larger community was effected, and all this reciprocal action with the progress made in other respects by theological doctrine and religious worship. When at a period more recent than the majority of the hymns of the Rgveda the Vedic people driven by some political shock, advanced from their abodes in the Puñjāb further and further, drove the aborigines into the hills and took possession of the broad tract of country lying between the Ganges, the Jumna, and the Vindhya range, the time had arrived when the distribution of power, the relation of kings and priests, could become transformed in the most rapid and comprehensive manner. In this stage of disturbance and complication, power naturally fell into the hands of those who did not directly possess any authority, the priestly class and their leaders, who had hitherto stood rather in the position of followers of the kings, but now rose to a higher rank. If we take further into account the intellectual and moral influence which this class possessed in virtue of the prerogative conceded to, or usurped by them and the religious feeling of the people, it is not difficult to comprehend how in such a period of transition powerful communities should arise among the domestic priests of petty kings and their families, should attain to the highest importance in every department of life,

How the position of the king became subordinate

and should grow into a caste which, like the ecclesiastical order in the middle ages of Christianity, began to look upon secular authority as an effluence from the fulness of their power, to be conferred at their will, and how on the other hand, the numerous royal families should sink down into a nobility which possessed, indeed, the sole right to the kingly dignity, but at the same time, when elected by the people, required inauguration in order to their recognition by the priesthood, and were enjoined above all things to employ only Brāhmanas as their counsellors”

Paṇḍit Ramānātha Sarasvatī in his translation of the Rgveda (Part I Vol. II pp 36-37) while commenting upon the word यज्ञचित्ति, says, “In days of yore there is no mention of caste, as it is now found. चित्ति can never refer to a caste or colour, but it means a place, a tract of land. It seems to me, says he, that the word refers to the five tracts of land lying about the five tributaries of the Indus, where the Aryans had first migrated from their original home” There are some scholars again who hold that at first there was but one undivided race like the one undivided Veda¹. They found their views on expressions which are found in the Mahābhārat (Śanti Parva 188 10),

Ramānātha
Sarasvatī
on the caste

The Mahā-
bhārat etc

1. एकएव पूरवेद् प्रणव सर्व्ववाङ्मय ।

एकोनारायणो नाम्ब एकोऽग्निर्व य एव च ।

Bhāgavata IX 14 18

Explanation
of some pau-
rāṇic texts

the Vāyupurāṇa (VIII, 62), and some other texts. The verse—"न विशेषोऽस्ति वर्णानां—etc (Mahā Sānti Parva 188 10) is not, I think, in their favour. The Mahābhārat, as it appears from hundreds of passages scattered here and there, speaks expressly of four original castes. Here too the verse should not be interpreted in the way in which it is so done by these scholars. Bhṛgu in answer to Bharadvāja's query speaks of the creation of four castes and their colour. The Chapter opens thus—Brahmā created first the Brāhmanas and then Prajāpatīs. He also created the four castes, Brāhmana, Kātriya, Vaiśya and Śūdra and the colours of all of them as well. "If colour is the criterion" says Bharadvāja, "for ascertaining castes then there is a mixture of colour in every caste. Moreover if this colour refers to mental emotion and bodily condition then too this is in common with all castes, as happiness and sorrow, warmth and coolness etc, are enjoyed in common by all. In reply to this question Bhṛgu says very vividly in the following manner :

—Colour alone cannot distinguish one caste from another. Brāhmanas even, who were first created by Brahmā attained various colours in accordance with their actions, internal and external, and hence they were known as क्षत्र ब्राह्मण; वैश्य ब्राह्मण and शूद्र ब्राह्मण etc. They were

termed besides under different appellations, such as, पिशाच, राक्षस, प्रेत, स्वेच्छ etc This is corroborated by the text of Atri (346—74 verses) where he speaks of ten different kinds of Brāhmanas Had the meaning of the verse been that Brahmā created the Brāhmanas first and from them proceeded the other three castes, then the question put by Bharadvāja to Bhṛigu in the next chapter (ब्राह्मणं केन भवति क्षत्रियो वा द्विजोत्तम etc) would have been irrelevant, as the answer given here had already been given in connection with the verse “न विशेषास्ति वर्णानाम् etc” Moreover, the last half of the verse “न वै शुद्रो भवेच्छुद्रो ब्राह्मणो ब्राह्मणो न च” would have been meaningless Besides, the stanza may also be explained in a different manner “In truth there is no distinction of caste as Brahma pervades the whole universe and there is no other existence but His. Castes are but creation of worldly practices and कर्म is at the root of this distinction” The Gītā also supports this view by saying “चातुर्वर्ण्यं मया सृष्टं गुणकर्म-विभागश्च.”

Divisions
of
Brāhmanas.

Gītā

There is a set of scholars again who hold that at first there were only two broad divisions of people—the Aryans and the non-Aryans In support of their argument they advance the following reasons. “In the earlier books of the Rgveda there is no mention of different castes It is only in the 10th Mandala,

Two broad
divisions of
castes

Rgveda.

which is supposed by them to be a later addition, that the names of four castes, Brāhmana, Kṣattriya, Vaisya and Sudra are met with for the first time. What we get from the earlier part of Rgveda is that there were some people who sang songs and performed sacrifices, some again helped the performance of such sacrifices with their wealth and services but there was no systematic division of castes. Besides them there was another set of people the aborigenes, who were called the Dasyu or Dāsas¹. As the people grew more and more numerous and the ceremonials became pompous and complicated, the necessity for a division of labour was felt. Thus the performers of the sacrifice (without any distinction of caste or creed) were called Brāhmanas, those that were skilled in arms and had great strength to protect people were termed Kṣattriyas and those that helped the above two classes with wealth and services were respectively called Vaiśyas and Sudras. The latter were the Dasyus or Dāsas. From this it appears that castes originally grew in accordance with the offices one performed and not with their birth. Attempts are made even now-a-days

Division of labour is at the root of the origin of castes.

1 This view is supported by Umesh Chandra Vatavyāla in his *Veda Praveśikā*. In his opinion the वर्णव्यवस्था system was established by the sage Sannaka. V. A. Smith also supports this view.

to prove this Prof E G Rapson says in his 'Ancient India' "Although in the early period of the Rgveda, the caste-system was unknown—the four castes are only definitely mentioned in one of the latest hymns—yet the social conditions which led to its development were already present' The learned professor also notes, "the first great division between the conquerors and the conquered was founded on colour In fact, the same Sanskrit word *Varna*, means both colour and caste This was the basis on which a broad distinction was subsequently drawn between the twice-born and the servile castes or *Sūdras* The threefold divisions of the twice-born into the ruling class (*Kṣattriyas*), the priests (*Brāhmaṇas*) and the tillers of the soil (*Vais'yas*), finds its parallel in other Indo European communities, and indeed it seems to represent the natural distribution of functions which occurs generally in human societies at a similar state of advancement."

E G. Rapson.

Caste-system not known to the early period of the Rgveda.

Colour was first at the root of the origin of caste

Castes—according to the functions of people.

Before jumping, however, to such a conclusion let us pause a little and ponder over the following facts that can be gathered from the Vedic texts and other scriptures related thereto Almost all the hymns of the Rgveda prove in the garb of an allegory the truth underlying the verse —“अग्नौ प्रास्ताहुत सम्यगादित्यमुपतिष्ठते । आदित्याज्जायते वृष्टिः वृष्टेरन्नं ततः प्रजा. ॥” Oblations

What the *ras* are meant for ?

Opinion of
Jaimini

offered unto fire go to the sun From the sun proceeds rain which again sustains the world" Keeping this fact in view which is the real aim of the Samhitā portion of the Veda, Jaimini, the author of the Mīmamsā Philosophy, has composed the *Sūtra*, "आम्नायस्य क्रियाशब्दादनर्थक्यमतदर्शनाम्" (II 2 1) "The hymns of the Vedas are meant only for the purpose of sacrifice and hence all other things found therein are of no value" It is also met with often that the people of the time, with a view to attain material and spiritual prosperity, used to perform Vedic sacrifices for the satisfaction of some emanation from God They firmly believed that the deities adored, if satisfied, would shower blessings on them profusely This is not all, but they held that salvation even proceeds from sacrifice In short, the four fold human pursuits are attainable from sacrifice alone For proper performance of sacrifices they engaged priests versed in the Vedas and ritualistic ceremonials The number of these priests varied from four to sixteen. In the Atharva Veda the number is found more than sixteen even The scholiast (Sāyaṇa) while commenting on the Vedas and specially on verses describing the functions of different priests, has unhesitatingly said that they were all Brāhmaṇas This view is corroborated by the Brāhmaṇas and other liturgical literatures

How Vedic
sacrifices
were per-
formed and
who were
eligible to
perform
those cere-
monies

The
liturgical
literature

as well. From the arrangment of hymns also it is seen clearly that they do not constitute a regular treatise but are some independent stanzas addressed to some deity or deities at a particular sacrifice

Now the functions of the Brāhamṇs and the Kalpa Sūtras being to prescribe which hymn is to be applied in what sacrifice and whose function it is to use them and to explain as well the method as to how a ceremonial has to be celebrated, we are to depend on them mainly, though not completely, regarding things concerned with sacrifices and other allied ceremonials. These treatises speak clearly of different castes and their respective duties. And as the Brāhmaṇs, as said before, form a part of the Vedas and the Kalpa Sūtras were composed after a short interval of the revelation of the Vedas and not in comparatively recent times as some scholars hold, it is but natural to have belief in the state of things as asserted by them, as they are direct authorities on the performance of sacrifices and other rituals

Brahman
and Kalpa
Sūtras

As regards the verse of the Bhāgavata purāṇa (IX 14 48) quoted above it would suffice to say that the word एक there has been used in the sense of *primary* and not *singularly*

Bhāgavata
Purāṇa

Now we come to dicuss the stanza in the

Vāyu Purāṇa Vāyu purāṇa (VIII 62) which speaks as follows —“And there were then no distinction of castes or orders and no mixture of castes” To understand this verse we shall have recourse to verses going before as also those that follow The chapter opens with the description of creation and closes with the duties of castes and orders of life It is found also in verse 74 of the same chapter that the division of caste existed from the beginning of creation Besides, from the Uttarākāṇḍa of the Rāmāyana, Chapter 74 and from the Bhīma Parva of the Mahābhārata there can be found indications that in the Kṛta yuga there existed Brāhmanas alone and that Kṣattriyas only began to be born in the Tretā These words of the purāṇas and epics, a careful reader would see, are nothing but eulogium with reference to Kṛta age, when goodness alone prevailed The meaning of the expression—“there were no castes and orders”—is that sin being unknown to the age one could not distinguish one caste from another by their conduct and behaviours All the castes trod the same path and refrained from doing injury to others Thus they all were possessed of the Brāhmanical qualities and hence were called Brāhmanas Such ideas may also be had from the verses—“वृद्धास्त्योपि हि ज्ञेयः हरिभक्तिपरायण , न वै शूद्रो भवेत् शूद्रो ब्राह्मणो न च ब्राह्मण.” etc. Leaving aside these Paurāṇic descriptions let us come to the Saṃhitās and

Rāmāyana
and
Mahābhārata

Brāhman and see what they really mean by "the origin of castes "

an extract from his "The Origin of B āhmanism" (published at Poona in 1863, pp 4, 5,6 etc) Dr Haug thus states his views on this question It has been of late asserted that the original parts of the Vedas do not know the system of caste But this conclusion was prematurely arrived at without sufficiently weighing the evidence It is true the caste system is not to be found in such a developed state , the duties enjoined to the several castes are not so clearly defined as in the law books and Purāṇas, But nevertheless the system is already known in the earlier parts of the Vedas, or rather presupposed. The barriers only were not so insurmountable as in later times This view he supports by a reference to the Zend Avesta, in which he finds evidence of a division of the followers of Ahura Mazda into three classes of Atharvas, Rathaesthas, and Vastrya fshuyans, which he regards as corresponding exactly to the Brāhmaṇas, Kṣattriyas and Vaiśyas of India The Atharvas, or priest, in particular formed a class or even a caste , they had secrets which they were prohibited from divulging , they were spiritual guides of their nation, and none but the son of a priest could become a priest—a rule which the Parsis still maintain From these facts, Dr

Dr. Haug.

Zend Avesta

Caste-system
is pre-vedic

Haug deduces the conclusion that the nation of which the Indo Arians and the Parso Arians originally formed a part had been divided into three classes even before the separation of the Indians from the Iranians, and he adds 'From all we know the real origin of caste appears to go back to a time anterior to the composition of the Vedic hymns, though its development to a regular system with insurmountable barriers can be referred only to the latest period of the Vedic times

It was hereditary during
the Vedic
ages

Dr Haug, we think, is right in his conjecture. That the caste was hereditary in the time of the Rgveda can be inferred from many hymns. The hymns in relation to Vasiṣṭha, Angirāḥ, Kutsa and others, would show that their sons too acted as priests in the sacrifice. The quarrel between Sudās and his antagonistic kings also points to the fact that kingship too was hereditary at that time. Beside Puruṣa Sūkta we get sufficient materials in R V I 164 45, II 1 2, III 34 9, V 31 4, VI. 11 4, 61 12, 75 10, VII 69. II 97. 1, 103, 16, VIII. 52, 7, X 16 6 etc., to prove that caste was an established order in the time of the Rgveda. The term Brahman also occurs eight times in the Rgveda.

Sāmhutās and
the castes

In the Yajur and the Atharva Vedas we find the names of four castes and their duties in a very express manner. From the careful

perusal of descriptions given in the Taittiriya Samhitā (II 4 13 1, vii 1 1 4), Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa (II 1. 4 11, X 14 4 2 23), Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa (III 2 3 9), Atharva Veda (IV 6 1, V. 17, 9, Xv 9 1), Sāma-Veda 1. 262 etc in relation to the origin of castes, there remains no doubt that castes prevailed from time immemorial.

Manu Samhitā, the most important of all Dharma Samhitās gives a faithful translation of the verse—ब्राह्मणोऽस्य सुखमासीत् etc —of the Rgveda in (I. 31) and acknowledges the eternal existence of castes. Viṣṇu Purāṇa (1 6 35) too speaks in the same strain—when true to his design Brahmā became desirous of creating the world, creatures in whom goodness prevailed sprung from his mouth. Others in whom passion predominated came from his breast, others in whom both passion and darkness were strong proceeded from his thighs. Others he created from his feet in whom darkness alone prevailed. Of these was composed the system of four castes.

Mann,

Stray references to various castes and tribes¹ in the mantra portion of the Vedas too point to the conclusion that caste was an established institution during the Vedic ages.

It would not be out of place to mention here that the last verse of the Puruṣa Sūkta,

¹ R V 1 140 3, 2 39 3, 2 3 2, 4 16 6, 5 52, 1, 6 47, 6 etc

Varnāśram
Dharma was
established
during the
Rgvedic
age

Gītā

Natural
conjecture

Action at
the root of
difference
castes

यज्ञेन यज्ञमयजन्तदेवाः etc. speaks of the वर्णाश्रम धर्म¹ also that was well established long before the compilations of the Vedic hymns in the shape of Samhitās. The principle underlying the caste-system of the Hindus, though it has become a much maligned topic of the day, is not to my mind, a thing of human origin, but is implanted by God Himself upon the very nature of things according to qualities and actions as asserted by the गीता and other religious texts. In this wide universe no two things are alike. Men differ from men, beasts from beasts and birds from birds and that not only in physical shape but also in their inherent attributes and characteristics. When I see a lion stronger than an elephant and an elephant stronger than a wolf and so on, I should according to the modern levelling tendency, charge the great Creator with partiality. Everywhere in the wide field of creation I find classes and classes, degrees and degrees ranging from the highest to the lowest. Properties and characteristics essentially vary even in the same class in all non human creations.¹ Why should they not vary in the human species? If God can create differences and distinctions based thereupon in non human kingdoms, why should He not do so in the

1. In the Brāhmanas and other scriptures Gods, trees etc. also have been divided into four classes Brāhmaṇas, Kṣatriyas, Vaiśyas and Śūdras.

human world ? A lion is certainly a nobler and stronger animal than a jackal , so a man-lion is nobler and higher than a man-jackal. The distribution of qualities is made to be variant, according to previous actions, by God Himself and so the difference between one member and another even in the same class, arises This unequal qualitative distribution (not to omit the quantitative one also) has given rise to different castes. As a mango is superior to a cocoanut and a cocoanut to a berry and so on, so a Brāhmana is superior to a Ksatriya and a Ksatriya to a Vaisya The difference between one caste and another, as ordained by God, does not mean and emphasize a dogged whimsical difference, having no legs to stand upon, but a real difference of qualitative quintessence having full justice to count upon Why all monkeys were not created men and all men not monkeys, under God's will, is an engaging enigma that will remain insoluble for ever

Distinction
between
caste and
caste indi-
vidual and
individual
is found
everywhere

Certainly, now a days, people of a particular caste in some cases, have degenerated from their primitive standard of excellence and virtues. Yet the degeneration is not whole and wholesale but partial and in particular aspects only

It would not be proper to expunge and eradicate rashly those sound principles which

Is the system
wholesome
to the
society ?

bear the inspiring impress of God's hands. To strive after an equality with advantages gained in a few items only and with everything else at a disadvantage is a sheer silliness of which a reasonable being should be ashamed. A cobbler reading a few pages of literature and philosophy but standing in the back ground in every other respect, viz, nobleness, manliness, politeness, kindness gentleness and gentlemanliness, etc, cannot be deemed equal to a Brāhmana or Kṣattriya who, though inferior to him in book learning, is yet superior in thousand other ways.

Degeneration
does not
mean eradication

The question of heritage is a vital point and a world of darling dogmatism cannot shove it by. A full century of education has sometimes, been found to be awfully upset even by a poor particle of a hurtful heritage.

Meaning of
equalisation

This is an unflinchingly orthodox view and cases are really seen where many a Śūdra is better than many a Brāhmana in more respects than one. But yet a mango is always a mango, however deteriorated it may be, and in spite of its deterioration, it shall ever retain the properties of a mango. This is a law of nature. Besides, it is staunchly supported by Śāstras also ¹. Burke says—"Those, who level, do not equalise." Indeed, equality means equality in everyone's own sphere. The principle

that all men are equal means that all men are equal in their own spheres to enjoy their rights and privileges. A scavenger cannot be expected to be at all equal to a king, though both of them have their own rights and privileges and are equal in that sense only.

Experience tells us that a low heritage is an ugly monomania which, in most cases, even all the united influences of education fail to stamp out. The pure elixir, supplied by culture, is denuded of its substance and compromised in its existence in contact with the accumulated forces of a bad heritage corrupting the genial currents of human souls. In more than hundreds of instances, it has been proved to the hilt that lowborn people, in spite of their much vaunted culture, have exhibited a meanness in manners which one should be ashamed of—a single word or mannerism being sufficient to let the cat out of the bag.

Value of
heritage

'First deserve and then desire' should be the only motto of those who are defiled and contaminated by low heritage. Paths for advancement are open to all, - it is reasonable only to select one, which would suit one's purpose. This is what appears to be the essence of this barrier from the Vedic and other scriptural texts.

We do not hesitate, however, to acknowledge frankly that rigorousness with respect to

rigorousness.

marriage and food etc, was not so strictly observed in the Vedic period as it is done now

Merits and demerits, As regards the merits and demerits of the Caste-system we do not like to delineate upon them here In the opinion of some it is wholesome to the society, while in the opinion of others it is not We only give here our free and impartial interpretations of the texts dealing with the question and leave the decision entirely upon the readers

Brāhmacārī and his duty It was a bounden duty on the part of the Brāhmanas to study the Vedas or the Veda, after the ceremony of sacred thread, in the house of their Ācārya for a period of 36 18,9 or more years if required In studying the Veda particular care should be given to its rhythm and accent The Vedic verses were composed of stanzas having certain feet or *caranas* consisting generally of 8 or 12 syllables

The Veda—its verses, metres etc There are 21 metres in the Vedic verses, of which seven are important ¹ The *Gāyatrī* metre contains three of eight-syllable feet The *Uṣṇic* contains four of seven-syllable feet The *Anuṣṭup* and other metres given here contain *four of eight, nine, eleven and twelve* syllable feet in order Thus we find that the *Gāyatrī* has 24 letters while each succeeding metre has four letters more in succession ²

1 See Introduction

2. For elaborate description see Pingala's *शब्दसूत्र* and *बङ्ग गुरुशिष्ये*'s commentary on *सम्प्रदायबन्धि*.

It is not yet finally settled where the Aryans dwelt at first. Some say that central Asia was their original home, while others raise dispute and say that they lived first in the Caucasian region near the sources of the rivers Oxus and Jaxartes. Prof Bāla Gangādhara Tilak has tried to prove in his *Arctic Home in the Vedas* that the Aryans lived first in the Arctic region. Pandit Umesandra Vidyāratna has proved in his '*Manavera Adajānmabhūmī*' that the Aryans first lived in the country which is nothing but modern Mongolia. Whatever might be their original home, it is pretty certain that in course of time they migrated in two different directions. One band entered India through the North western passes and settled in the Puñjāb and the other made their way to the continent and lived for a long time on the Caucasian soil. This perhaps led some Western scholars to think that this land was the original home of the Aryans.

Original
home of the
Aryans

Vedic Accent

There are threefold accents in all the texts of the four Vedas and in two Brāhmans, the Taittirīya (including its Āraṇyaka) and the Śatapatha (including the Brhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad). These are उदात्त (acute), अनुदात्त (grave) and स्वरित (circumflex). The vowel which is pronounced from the higher part of its proper place of pronunciation, such as,

Udāṭṭa
anudāṭṭa
and Svarita.

Method of
marking
accents of
Vedic texts.

throat etc, is called उदात्त or acutely accented. The vowel which is pronounced from the lower part of its proper place of pronunciation, such as, palate etc, is called अनुदात्त or gravely accented. The vowel that has the combination of the above two accents and proceeds from the line that divides its proper place of pronunciation in two, is called स्वरित or circumflexly accented ¹. There are four different methods of marking the accent in Vedic texts. The system in the Rgveda is followed by the Atharva Veda, the Vājasaneyi Samhitā, the Taittirīya Samhitā and Brāhman. Here the acute accent is not marked at all, the grave accent is marked by a horizontal line underneath the vowel and the circumflex accent is marked by a perpendicular line on the top of the vowel. Both the Maitrāyaṇi and Kāthaka Samhitās, (two recensions of the Taittirīya Samhitā), mark the Udātta with a vertical stroke above. The Maitrāyaṇi indicates the independent Svarita by a curve below, but the dependent Svarita by a horizontal stroke crossing the middle of the syllable or by three vertical strokes above it. The Kāthaka Samhitā marks the independent Svarita by a curve below when an unaccented syllable follows, but by a hook below when an accented syllable

1. उच्चैरुदात्त. (११११८), नीचैरनुदात्तः (११११०), समाहारः स्वरितः (१११११) ।

ble follows The dependent Svarita has a dot below the accented syllable. The Anudāṭṭa is marked in both with a horizontal stroke below. The Satapatha Brāhmaṇ of the Vājasaneyi Samhitā marks the Udāṭṭa only with a horizontal stroke below The Sāma Veda marks the accents Udāṭṭa, Svarita and Anudāṭṭa by the figures, 1, 2 3 written above the syllables It has already been said that a Mantra should never fall short of rhythm or accent or it would produce contrary result.

The Aryans lived in villages and towns and they had often a hereditary monarch to rule over them The republican form of Government also was known in Vedic age Vedic people knew besides Sabhās and Samitis The duty of the king was to protect his subjects and keep order of the society He, with the help of priests etc administered justice to his people. The payment of regular tax was known People would often present many valuable things to the king

Monarchi
al organisa-
tion

The Aryans in days of yore had the joint family system The father was the head of the family and the mother managed the household affairs Women were held in high respect They were given proper education and we find that some hymns of the Vedas too were revealed to them After their marriage they had to live with their husbands but the unmarried girls, who lived with their fathers got a share of their property like the sons

Aryan home
—the joint
family
system

Seas. The Vedic Indians knew something about seas, rivers and mountains. They do not mention the name of any particular sea, but the word sea has often been mentioned here and there in many passages of the Rgveda¹. Mention of *वतु मसुह* even finds its place in X 47 2. Still some Western scholars hold that the sea was unknown to the Vedic Arians.

Mountains The Rgveda speaks of the Himavat and Mujavat mountains and their peaks.

River The names of 21 rivers, such as, गङ्गा, यमुना, सरस्वती, रसा, शतद्रु etc are found in the Rgveda. The verse X 104 8 speaks of 99 rivers.

Trees, beasts and birds The names of some trees, beasts and birds too are mentioned in the Rgveda. Of the trees the names of *Khadira*, *Simāla*, *Urvāruka*, *samī*, *sīśāmpa* etc are found. Of the beasts the reference to the horse, elephant, goat, wolf, dog, cow, buffalo, boar, deer, camel, etc. is found. It mentions the names of wild goose, ruddy goose, hawk, owl, vulture, curlew, peacock, *hāndrava*, *kapinjala* etc.² It is strange that the cat is not mentioned in the Rgveda. It is also curious to note that the dog was not a hated animal at that time.

¹ R. V. I, 116, 3; IV, 56, 6; VII, 88, 1; VIII, 92, 22; IX, 33, 6 etc.

² R. V. III, 51, 19, 22; VII, 50, 3; VII, 50, 12; X, 31, 10 etc.

³ R. V. I, 161, 47; I, 186, 7; II, 24, 2; II, 34, 9; 39, 2; III, 2, 11; II, 18, 56; IV, 4, 1; VI, 17, 11; VII, 65, 4; VIII, 86, 8; VIII, 56, 3 etc.

CHAPTER II

THE SĀMA AND THE YAJUR VEDAS

The ऋषि priests had to cite some hymns in particular tunes during the performance of ceremonials, connected with the Soma sacrifice. These hymns, when collected, came to be known as the Sāmaveda. Most of the hymns of the Sāma-Veda have been taken from the 8th and 9th. Maṇḍalas of the Rg-veda. Except some 78 hymns all other hymns are the modifications of the rks.¹ This difference in the hymns of the Rk and the Sāma Vedas is due, perhaps, to the divisions of the Veda in different Śākhās or to the system of teaching the mantras by rote. There are thousand and one ways in which these hymns of the Sāmaveda may be sung. Historically it is not important at all. The Kausītakī Brāhmaṇ says,—this Veda and the Yajus are the attendants of the Rgveda.² The Sāma and the Yajur Vedas have been collected only for ritual application.

The Sāma
veda—its
source and
application.

There are 1810 stanzas in the Sāma-Veda, of which 261 are mere repetitions and so the number of stanzas in the Sāmaveda are really

1 Vincent Smith notes 75 only

२ तत्परिचरणावितरी वेदी । ६।११ ।

The body
of the
Sāmaveda
—its general
division

1549, divided into two books called *ārciks* or collections of *īks* and *gānas*. The first is divided into six prapāthakas (chapters) subdivided into half chapters and into dasatis (sections). Each chapter has ten sections, containing as a rule ten verses, each, excepting the sixth which has only nine verses in it. This portion is again subdivided into three parts—*chandas*, *Āranyakas* and *Uttarās*. The second is divided into nine chapters, each being divided into two or three sections and each containing generally three stanzas. This again is subdivided into *Grāmgeya*, *Āranyageya* and *Ūha* and *Ūhya*. Here the hymns of the Rgveda have either been repeated, elongated and new words have been inserted to make them fit for singing. *Grāmageya* and *Āranya* adopted the principle of *Chanda Ārcika*, while the *Uhas* and *Uhyas* adopted that of the *Uttar ārcika*. The hymns sung by the Udgātr-priests in populous villages were called *Grāmageya*, while those sung in solitary forests came to be known as *Āranyageyas*.

Gānas—
their divi-
sions

The *gānas* have four books—*Grāmageya*, *Āranyageya*, *Ūha* and *Uhya*. These have 17, 6, 23 and 6 prapāthakas respectively. The verses of the first 13 sections are addressed to Agni, while those of the last 11 to Soma. The intermediate stanzas are chiefly addressed to Indra.

The second book is later in date and second in character. We know from the Śatapatha

Brāhman that before the composition of the second part of the Brāhman of this Veda, the divisions of the 1st book of the Sāmaveda were extant. That Sāma Veda is older than the Taittirīya and Vājasaneyī Samhitās is proved by the fact that the stanzas of the Sāmaveda in modified forms are found in them. Some scholars finding a few archaic forms in the Sāmaveda suppose it to be older even than the Rk Samhitā. One of them has cited a sloka from the Rg-Veda and several other passages from different Śrutis and purāṇas in support of his argument. But this view has not found any support from other veteran Vedic scholars.

The second book—a later addition, and the age of the Sāmaveda,

According to the Vīṣṇupurāṇa Jaimini, Sumanta and Sukarmā studied the Sāmaveda and taught this to their disciples. Sukarmā, the grandson of Jaimini, had Kausalya, Hiranyanābha and Pauspiṇja as his disciples. The disciples of this Hiranyanābha had 15 pupils who were termed Prācyasāmaga. Of these the sage Kṛti had 24 disciples who propagated many a śākhā of the Sāmaveda. Pauspiṇja had Lokāksi, Kuthumi, Kusīdi and Lāngali as his pupils¹. Caranavyūha mentions

Propagation and Division of the Sāmaveda—its Śākhās,

1. प्रोवाच कृतिनामासौ शिष्येभ्यः स महानसि ।

तैश्चापि सामवेदोऽसौ शाखाभिर्बहुलीकृतः ॥

सामवेदतरो शाखा व्यासशिष्यः स जनिनि ।

क्रमेण येन मैत्रेय । विभेदं शृणु तन्मम ॥

seven principal Śākhās of the Sāmaveda. These are—Rānāyanīya, Śātyamugra, Kalāpa, Mahākalāpa, Sārdūla, Lāngalāyana and Kauthuma. The five sub-Śākhās of the Kauthuma Śākhā are Āsurāyana, Vātāyana, Prāñjalidvāitabhīṭ, Prācīnayogya and Naigeya. According to the Viṣṇupurāṇa there were once a thousand Śākhās of the Sāmaveda. This view has been accepted by Durgācārya, a commentator on the Nirukta. Of the śākhās mentioned above only three—the Kauthuma in Gujrat and Bengal, the Jaiminīya in Karnāṭa and the Rānāyanīya in Mahārāṣṭra—are found. In Bengal, there are Brāhmanas of no other school than that of the Kauthuma. According to Paṇḍit Satyavrat Sāmasramī names of 13 Śākhās of the Sāmaveda are known, but of these only Kauthumī and Rānāyanīya are extant.

Difference
of Yajurveda
from the
Sāmaveda,

Though Yajurveda resembles Sāmaveda in respect of its derivation from the Ṛgveda for ritualistic application, it differs from that veda in

सुमन्तुस्तस्य पुर्वोऽभूत्, सुकर्मास्याप्यभूत् सुतः ।
अधीतवन्तावे कौका संहितां तौ मन्त्राभ्युनौ ॥
साङ्ख्य संहिताभेदं सुकर्मा तत्सुतस्ततः ।
चकार तच्च तच्छिष्यो जगद्भक्तिं मन्त्रमती ॥
हिरण्यनाभः कौशस्त्यः पौष्पिस्त्यश्च द्विजोत्तमः ।
उदीच्यसामगा शिष्यास्तैस्तुः पञ्चदश च्युताः ॥
लोकानि, कथं, मिथैव कुसीदि कर्त्तुं शक्नुवन्ति यः ।
पौष्पिस्त्यशिष्यास्तैर्भेदैः संहिता बहुलीकृताः ॥
हिरण्यनाभः शिष्यश्चतुर्विंशतिसंहिताः—विष्णुपरायः । ३।६।

one respect While Sāmaveda has no claim to originality Yajurveda abounds in many original matters Besides, what is technically called the chandah period ends with the Sāmaveda and prose for the first time has been introduced in the Yajurveda The Yajurveda explains regularly and systematically all the sacrificial ceremonies excepting the Soma-sacrifices explained in the Rk and the Sāma Vedas So according to the Vāyu Purāna Yajurveda is what was instructed by way of sacrifice It was the sole-guide for performance of sacrifices and hence the name¹.

There are two principal divisions of the Yajurveda—the Śukla and the Kṛṣṇa Though the subject-matter of these two Samhitās is principally the same, their collection and arrangement are quite different

In the Black Yajurveda the Samhitā and the Brāhman portions have been blended together, while in the white Yajurveda these two portions like the Rk and Sāma Samhitās have been kept separate This points to the later origin of the white Yajurveda Because of this mixture of the Samhitā and Brāhman, the Black Yajurveda has become anomalous, while the text of the White Yajurveda is clear in consequence of the distinct division of the Samhitā and Brāhman portion The Black

General
division of
the Yajur-
veda

Nature of
the Black
and the
White
Yajurvedas

Why the
Śukla Yajur
veda is
called
Vājasaneyi
Samhitā

1 यच्छिष्टञ्च यजुर्वेदे, तेन यज्ञमयुञ्जत ।

याजनाद्धि यजुर्वेदे इति शास्त्रस्य निश्चयः ।

Yajurveda Samhitā is known as the Taittirīya Samhitā, while the white Yajurveda goes by the name of Vājasaneyī Samhitā. The Viṣṇu and the Vāyu purāṇas give an account of the distinction of these two Samhitās. * Mahīdhara says in his own commentary that Yājñavalkya,

* There was a great conference of the sages on the top of the great Meru. It was proclaimed that he who would not attend it within seven nights should be involved in the sin of murdering a Brāhmaṇa. Vaiśampāyana, the preceptor of Yājñavalkya could not attend this. It so chanced that he kicked his nephew to death and thus committed the sin of murdering a Brāhmaṇa. Then he asked his disciples to atone for his sin whereupon Vaiśampāyana came forward and said, "Lord, what's the necessity of putting those *Brāhmaṇas* of meagre strength to trouble? Please allow me to do it alone". On this Vaiśampāyana flew into a rage and wishing not to have such a haughty disciple asked him to return what he had learnt from him. Proud Yājñavalkya vomitted at once the gory hymns of the Yajurveda and departed therefrom without delay. The disciples of Vaiśampāyana took those hymns in the form of *Tittiri* birds and hence the name of the Samhitā. Then they relieved Vaiśampāyana of his great sin by performing due expiation.

Yājñavalkya on his return from the preceptor's house gave himself up to the worship of the sun. The sun pleased with his devotion appeared before him and asked him to take any boon he might wish for. "Bestow on me" said Yājñavalkya, "if you please, those hymns of the Yajurveda which are unknown to my preceptor". The sun then in the shape of a horse gave him the hymns known as *Ajñāna* and so the student studying these hymns becomes known as Vājīn and the Samhitā as Vājasaneyī Samhitā.

the son of Vājasanī composed the White Yajurveda and so this is called Vājasaneyī Samhitā after his name

Sāyanācārya accounts truly for the name of these two Samhitās thus —“Here and there in the Black Yajurveda we find the duties of the अश्वयुज and those of the होता, spoken together. It is for this reason that the students of this Veda often get perplexed to make out the meaning of the text. As this darkens the intellect, so it is called the black or the impure Veda, while the other Samhitā explains the duties of the अश्वयुज alone and so its reader does not find any difficulty to understand this Veda. Thus it is called the white or the pure Yajurveda.”

Explanation
of the black
and white
Yajurvedas
given by
Sāyana

It is said in the Taittirīya Āranyaka that Yajurveda is at the head of all other Vedas. The Yajurveda is the head of the *Purusa*, the Rgveda his right side, the Sāmaveda his left side, the Upaniṣads his life and the Atharvaveda his tail.

Position of
the Yajur-
veda among
other vedas

According to Śaunaka's *Caranavyūha*, the Yajurveda had 86 śākhās or schools. But it gives the names of only 27 schools of the Black Yajurveda and 15 of the White Yajurveda. The Vishnupurāṇa mentions 27 Śākhās of the Black and 15 Śākhās of the White.

Mahidhara too has taken this view of the purāṇas to be true. The Anukramanī of Kātyāyana and the closing portion of the Ś'atapatha Brāhmaṇa support this view.

Different
schools of
the Yajur-
veda

Yajurveda ¹ The author of the Brahmāṇḍa-purāṇa mentions the *Sākhās* of the Yajurveda to be more than a hundred. The *Caraka Sākhā* includes Caraka, Āhvarka, Kaṭha, Prācyakatha, Kapisthalakatha, Cārāyaniya, Vāratantaviya, Svetāsvatara, Aupaminyava, Pāta, Aindineya and Maitrāyaniya. The Maitrāyaniya *Sākhā* comprises Mānavā, Vārāha, Dundubha, Chāgalya, Śyāma, Śyāmāyaniya and Hārīdraviya. Hārīdrava, Āsura, Gārgya, Śārkarākṣa and Āgrasaviya are the sub *Sākhās* of Hārīdraviya. S'ākhā Oukhīya and Khāndikīya *Sākhās* have come of Taittriya *Sākhā*. From Khāndikīya sub-S'ākhā originated Kāleya, Sātyāyani, Hiraṇyakeśi, Bhāradvājī and Āpastambī. The *Caranavyūha* published in the *Śabdakalpadrūma* has two other S'ākhās—the Baudhāyani and Satyāsādhī. If we exclude the five sub *Sākhās* of Hārīdraviya S'ākhā the S'ākhās of the Black Yajurveda amount to 27. But the *Samhitās* of the four *Sākhās* (Ātreya, Kāthaka, Āpastambīya, and Hārīdraviya) of the Black Yajurveda are only found.

- 1 एक आसीद् यजुर्वेदस्तु चतुर्धा प्यकल्पयत् ।
चतुर्होविमभूद् यस्मिंस्तेन यज्ञमयाकरोत् ॥
यजुर्वेदतरोः शाखा सप्तविंश सङ्गमतिः ।
वैशम्पायणनामासौ व्यासशिष्यश्चकार वै ॥
शिष्येभ्यः प्रददौ तासु ऋतुङ्क्तेऽप्यनुक्रमत् ॥
शाखामिदास्तु तेषां वै दशपञ्च च वाणिनां ।
काण्वाद्यास्तु भङ्गोभाग, याज्ञवल्क्य-प्रवर्णिताः ॥

विष्णुपुराण—१.५।

The Caranavyūha mentions 16 Śākhās of the white Yajurveda. These are Jāvālī, Baudheyā, Kānvī, Mādhyandinī, Sāpheyā, Tāpanīya, Kāpālī, Paundravatsī, Āvatikī, Paramāvatikī, Pārāśarīya, Vaineya, Ugheya, Gālavī, Vajavi and Kātyāyānī. But the Samhitās and Brāhmaṇas of Kānvī and Mādhyandinī Śākhās of the White Yajurveda are now extant.

Śākhās of the Yajurveda according to Caranavyūha

The Katha with its subdivision, the Kapisthala was once current in the Puñjāb and Kasmīr. The latter has disappeared altogether, whereas, the former is still in use in Kasmīr. This is probably the oldest Śākhā of the Yajurveda. The Kalāpa or the Maitrayaṇī Śākhā spread on the south of the Vindhya range. It was once current in the Mahārāstra. The adherents of these two schools with their subdivisions were known as *Carakūdhvaryus*.

Countries where the Kalāpa and Kapisthala are followed

The Taittirīya school with its subdivisions the Āpastamba and the Hiranyakesī, was current in southern India and is still followed in the Godāvarī districts. Its rival branch, the Vājasaneyā Śākhās viz. the Mādhyandinī and the Kānvī were first introduced in Videha. It spread gradually over the north, the east and the west of India. Most of the Yajurvediya Brahmanas of Bengal belong to the Kānva Śākhā.

Āpastamba and Hiranyakesī—where followed?

General
Divisions
of the
Yajurveda.

The Samhitā of the Black Yajurveda is divided into 7 Astakas, 44 Prasnas, 651 Anuvākas and 2198 Kāndikās, while that of the White Yajurveda has 40 chapters, 303 Anuvākas (some of which are mere repetitions) and 1915 Kāndikās

The religion
of the Yajur-
veda and
how it
differs from
that of the
Rgveda

The worship of Śiva and Viṣṇu appears to have become prominent during the time of this Veda. A great change also seems to come upon the religion of the time. In the Rgveda the gods are asked to bless man and simple and sincere prayers are offered to them, while in the Yajurveda gods are forced to give their blessings by means of ceremonials. Thus it seems that the simple and sincere prayers of the Rgvedic time are at an end and gods are now forced to give wished-for object to the worshippers. Further here we come across many formulas to be recited for the purpose of obtaining victory, casting away evils or bringing down rain. That people believed in occult powers, miracles, magic &c, and held ascetism in high esteem, is also clear from a study of this Veda.

Tantra Literature

The *Tantra literature*, full of worship and sacrifices which can be done in an easy and simple way, flourished perhaps during this period. This branch of science has not

as yet engaged the attention of the Western scholars, excepting Sir John Woodroffe, the late justice of the High Court, Calcutta, who devoted himself arduously to a study of this Subject His *Śakti* and *Śikṭa* and his admirable translation of the *Mahānirvāṇa Tantra* bear ample testimony to his assiduity and scholarship We give below a short account of this Literature

Tantra and
Sir John
Woodroffe.

Tantra literature is very old It is also recognised as a Śruti. Śruties are of two kinds ¹—Vedic and Tāntric The former evidently refers to the Vedas, Brāhmaṇas, Aranyakas and Upanisads, while the latter to the Āgamas Both the Vedas and the Āgamas are said to have come from Mahādeva ² Five streams of spiritual scriptures flowed from the five mouths of Mahādeva and they inundated the world with their nectarine juice These five are the Vedas, the Āgamas, the Jāmalas, the Tantras and the Dāmaras The word Nigama is applied to that branch of Tantra in which Pārvatī gives answers to Mahādeva's query ³

Time of
Tantra

It is also
acknowledged
as Śruti-
its origin
and divisions

1 अतिश्च द्विविधा वेदिकी तान्त्रिकीच—कुल्लूक (on Manu II 2)

2 “यस्य निश्चितं वेदा योवेदेभ्योऽखिल जगत् ।
निर्दिष्टे तमह वन्दे विद्यातीथ भहेश्वरम् ॥” सायण
“आगतं शिववक्त्रेभ्यो गत च गिरिजाश्रुतौ ।
मतं च वासुदेवस्य तेनागम इति स्मृतं ॥”

3. “निर्गतं गिरिजावक्त्रात् गत शिवमुखेषु यत् ।
मत श्रीवासुदेवस्य निगमस्येन कौर्त्तितं ॥”

Meaning of
Tantras and
Āgamas etc

The dicta of all the four Vedas are Vedic śrutis, while those of Āgama, Jāmala, Dāmara and Nigama are Tantric śrutis. The Kālikāgama defines Tantra in the following manner. The treatises that are fraught with great meaning, comprise तन्त्र and मन्त्र and make one cross this *ocean of earth*, are termed Tantras ¹. The following divisions of Tantras are found in the Vārāhi Tantra. There are three sorts of Āgamas and the fourth sort is known as Aṭvara, ². The four broad divisions of these treatises are—the Āgamas, the Jāmalas, the Dāmaras and the Tantras in four Kalpas. Each of these Śāstras again is divided in various ways ³. The Mahānirvāṇa Tantra speaks of these varieties thus—

चतु षष्ठोश्च तन्त्राणि यामलादीनि पार्ज्वति ।

सफलानीह वाराहे विष्णुकान्तासु भूभिषु ॥

कल्पभेदेन तन्त्राणि कथितानीह यानि च ।

पाषण्डमाहनायेव विफलानीह सुन्दरि ॥

The sixty four Tantras with Yamalas at their head are efficacious only in the Varāha Kalpa in this world. The other Tantras enumerated there for different Kalpas will not

1 “तनीति विपुलानर्थान् तन्त्रमन्त्रसमन्वितान् ।

वाणश्च कुरुते यस्मात्तन्त्रमित्यभिधीयते ॥”

2. आगम विविध प्रीत चतुर्थमैश्वरं कृतम् ।

3 कल्पसप्तविधं प्रीत आगमी यामलस्तथा ।

डामरश्च तथा तन्त्र तेषां भेदाः पृथक् पृथक् ॥

yield any fruit as they are meant only to fascinate those who have gone astray

It is also stated in the aforesaid Tantra that as Vedic rites are not efficacious in *Kali yuga*, *Āgama* is the only royal road to salvation. In days of yore *S'ruti*, *Smṛiti*, *Purāṇa* and other scriptures have been said by me to be followed by men in *Yugas* other than *Kali*, but in the *Kali yuga* man would follow the path of *Āgama* to attain wished-for objects in the shape of *Dharma*, *Artha*, *Kāma* and *mokṣa*

Why are
Tantras
followed in
the *Kali* ?

The names of about one hundred and fifty tantras are found Besides these there are about a hundred *Upatantras* composed by *Jaimini*, *Vasistha*, *Nārada*, *Kapila*, *Bhārgava*, *Yājñavalkya*, *Bhṛgu*, *Sukra*, *Bṛhaspati*, *Garga* and others There is also a number of *Bauddha Tantras*. In *Tibet*, these are collectively called *Rgyug* including more than 2600 tantras *Nāgārjun* was one of the *Bauddha Tantrics* He gave himself up to severe penances and his attempts were crowned with success The vast experience and success he attained to were recorded in a book which came to the hands of a *Buddhist monk* after his death The book is styled "*Siddha Nāgīājuna Kaksaputra*" as it was kept always under his armpit In physical science too he had great knowledge and there are many *Āyurvedic medicines* which go after his name Unfortunately this valuable book has not come within the purview of any *Indian Pandit*

Number of
Tantras and
Upatantras

Tantra—a
source of
medicine

Kṛṣṇānanda
Āgamavāgīśa
and Tantra
Sāra

The famous Bengali Tāntric Pandit Kṛṣṇānanda Āgamavāgīśa has done a great service to Bengal, nay to the whole Tantric world, by compiling a treatise, "Tāntra Sāra" by name, which contains all important matters found in different Tantras, with apt quotations under different heads. This book is perhaps 500 years old.

Different
way of
classification
of Tantras

Tantras may again be classified under the heads आस्तिक or Vedic Tantras and नास्तिक or Non Vedic Tantras. The former falls under five heads in as much as they inculcate the worship of Śiva, Sūrya, Viṣṇu, Śakti and Agni. The Tantras like philosophies preach the doctrines of monism, dualism and qualified monism.

Doctrine of
different
tantras

S'ākta Tantras generally preach monism. S'akti is supposed to be the sole cause of the universe. This world is nothing but her manifestation. S'aiva Tantras preach both monism and dualism. The Vaiṣṇava Tantras are mainly of dualistic character.

Siddha
Vidyās- their
place in the
religious
world

Of the ten S'aktis * Kālī, Tārā and Soḍaśī are the chief. The last one is otherwise known as अन्नदा, अम्बिका, शारदा, शो, निथ्या, , त्रिपुरा, महालक्ष्मी etc. The worship of शोविद्या is found

* काली तारा महाविद्या बीडशी भुवनेश्वरी
भैरवी छिन्नमस्ताच विद्या ध्मावती तथा ।
वगला सिद्धविद्याच मातङ्गी कमलात्मिका
एता दशमहाविद्या सिद्धविद्या प्रकौर्त्तिता ॥

in details in त्रिपुरोपनिषत्, शारदातिलक, परशुराम कल्पसूत्र श्रोकन, कामकलाविलास, सेतुबन्ध and other scriptures Gandharva Tantra takes श्रोकविद्या as absolute Brahma, the fundamental and instrumental causes of the universe The Mahānirvāṇa Tantra speaks of Mahādeva as the cause of the universe and says that His knowledge brings about emancipation

Tāntric Upāsana in some form or other is found all over India It spread greatly in Bengal and Kāśmīra To be accurate Kāśmīra is the cradle of S'aiva, S'akta and Vaiṣṇava Tantras Of the Tantras that inculcate the worship of Mahādeva the Mahānirvāṇa is the chief Thus, in our opinion, is the best of all the Tantras Of those inculcating the worship of Kālī, the Kālīkā Tantra, the Mahākāla Samhitā and śyāmā Rahasyam are important The Tārā Kalpalatā Paddhati and Tāra Bhakti Sudhārṇava deal with the adoration of Tārā Of the Vaiṣṇava Tantras, Krama Dipikā, Rādhā Tantra and Kṛṣṇa Yāmala are important Tāntric Upāsana more or less corresponds to the ब्रह्मोपासना of the Vedānta.

Tāntric
Upāsana is
akin to
Brahmopā-
sana

There are three orders of Tāntrics according to the degree of knowledge they acquire corresponding to the four stages of life in the Vedic institution These are known respectively as the state of a *Paśu*, the *Virā* and the *Kula* The first is the stage of continence

The stages
of
Tantric life

corresponding to the state of ब्रह्मचर्य The second corresponds to गृहस्थ, where the साधक has to test his control over senses and steadiness by observing the vow of पट्टमकार ¹ The third is the state of कुल corresponding to the state of वानप्रस्थ and भिक्षु combined Of all the preceptors from whom मन्त्र can be taken, a कौल is the best²

Names of
different
Tantras fol-
lowed in
different
countries

In Bengal Kulārṇava, Kubjikā, Tārā Rahasya, Svamā Rahasya, Sārādā Tilaka, Sāktānanda Taranginī, Mahānirvāṇa and Prāu-
toṣinī Tantras are taken in high esteem In Southern and Western India Mantra Mahodadhī, Mantra Mahārṇava and Mantra Muktabalī are highly respected In Kāśmīra though all sorts of tantras flourished there, the Śaiva had its ascendancy The Śaiva Tantras are founded on Śaiva philosophy The Śiva Sūtra is the fundamental treatise of these tantras, others are but accessories to it Spandāmīta, Śivadr-
sti, Mālinivijay Vārttic, Pratyabhijñā Vimarśinī and Tantrāloka are important works on the subject.

Our heartfelt thanks are due to S_j Rasik mohan Chottopaddhyaya of Butani, Dacca, who overcoming all difficulties and obstacles, succeeded in publishing a great number of Tantras together with the Tantra Sāra of of S_j Kṛṣṇānanda Āgamvāgīśa along with some other rare books on Astronomy, Astrology and ritualistic treatises

1 मय मास च मत्स्यश्च मुद्रा नैव नमेव च ।

2. पशोर्बलं ब्रह्ममन्त्रं पशुरेव न संशयः ।

वीराङ्गमनुर्वीरः कौलाश्च ब्रह्मविदो भवे ॥

CHAPTER III

THE ATHARVA-VEDA

We have already pointed out why Atharva-veda was not included in the term ऋग्वेद. Though some portions of this Veda seem to be very old, a great deal of it is undoubtedly of latter origin. According to Mr Roth a third of this Veda, while in the opinion of Mr Whitney a sixth of it, has been taken from the tenth Maṇḍala of the Rgveda. This perhaps, was taken to be the fourth Veda after the composition of the Śatapatha Brahman. Some Atharvan Ślokās appear to have been prevalent in ancient Vedic India and these were used in sacrifices and other rites intended to do away with evils. Most of the hymns of this Veda are meant to secure temporal welfare, while those of the other three Vedas have mainly, a spiritual significance. About a sixth part of this Veda including the two entire Kāṇḍas 15 and 16, is composed in prose.

The oldest name of the fourth Veda is Atharvāṅgīrasa. The term Atharva and its derivatives are employed throughout the literature. It consists of two component parts—Atharva and Āṅgīrasa. The first refers to the auspicious practices—the *bhesajām* and the *Śānti*

Atharva
Veda—its
source.

Names of
the Athar
va Veda
and their
explanations

and *paustika* rituals, while the last to the hostile sorcery and the *jātu* or *abhucār*. The Gopatha Brāhman explains this double character of the Atharva Veda very plainly and familiarly. Two other designations of the Atharva Veda differ greatly from the preceding ones being the product of a later literary age. These are known as *Bhṛgvāṅgīrasa* and *Brahma Veda*. The former is very popular in Atharvān ritual texts. The three terms, Atharva, Āṅgīrasa and *Bhṛgu* are almost synonymous concerned with the auspicious rites.

Social and political condition of India

Position of
Brāhmana
and other
castes

There is abundant evidence to show that the Brāhmanas asserted themselves fully during the time of the Atharva Veda. They call themselves as *deva* and occupy a higher position in the society. The distinction between all the three upper classes and the aboriginal servito class has advanced in the Atharva Veda, so the line is drawn sharply not only between the *Ārya* and *Dāsa*, but also between the *Brāhmana*, *Kṣattriya* and *Vaiśya*.

Knowledge
of
Anatomy

The knowledge of Anatomy, human and animal, has advanced, though not quite so far as in the Brāhmanical account of the *As'va-medha* and *Puruṣamedha* sacrifices.

Prayers.

Many ancient prayers were remodelled here to accord better with the religion of the time

The prayers of the Grhya Sūtras are either woven into the account of the practices themselves or they are preserved as separate collections

The Samhitā of the Atharva Veda is broader in scope than that of the Rgveda. It deals with the subject matter of the family books and is supplemented by Kalpa Sūtras. The life of the average Āryas from the cradle to the funeral fire is depicted here more freely and comprehensively than in the other Vedas. The variety of practices and beliefs connected with hearth and home, field and cattle, love and marriage, trade and village politics, is far far greater here than in the other Vedas

**Atharva
Veda—its
nature and
scope**

The medical charms and the herbs mentioned here for the cure of various diseases show that the Aryans had a fairly good knowledge of the science of medicine

Medicine,

The royal rights, the women's rights, influence in the village assembly, the charms to secure harmony and the like, though not wholly absent in the Rgveda, are characteristically Ātharvanic. Sacraments are described here fully and systematically, while other matters only incidentally

**Rights and
privileges
of people.**

The geographical data of the Atharva Veda, specially the mention of the rivers Jamunā and Bāranāvati and the regions of the Angas and Magadhas point to the fact that in the times of the Atharva Veda the Indo-Aryans were

**Extension
of
civilisation.**

acquainted with India enough far to the east and to the south east Their familiarity with the tiger also points to the same conclusion

The Position of the Atharva-veda in Hindu Literature in General.

The Atharva-veda is a sacred text in more than one way it not only shares materials in common with the other Vedas, but also contains hymns which are highly theosophic and philosophical. Everything dealt with here has a beneficial aspect

Atharva
charms etc
in the
Rgveda

The Rgveda has no specific designation for Atharvan charms It is doubtless that sorcery and house practices were in vogue in India at all times. The silence of the Rgveda on these is due perhaps to the scantiness of its opportunities to mention them as it was mainly engaged with the praises to the gods in connection with Soma sacrifices So there is no proof that the Rgveda excluded things entitled to the name of Atharva charms.

Atharva

The Atharva Veda alludes to its own class of compositions very rarely ¹ The word Atharva appears to mean 'slayers of Raksasas', while Angirah is connected with sorcery and spells

Śrauta
Sūtras,

The Śrauta texts, by their very nature, exclude direct interest in the systematic charms Only such sorcery as is closely connected with the Śrauta performances obtains

expression there. Having regard to the subject matters of the other three Vedas it would be silly, on the part of a man, to pronounce that they are hostile to the Atharva Veda. The Śatapatha Brāhman (10 5 2 20) speaks highly of those that are expert in sorcery. A careful examination of the position of the Atharva Veda in the Śruti would show that this Veda though beyond mainly the proper sphere of the greater concerns of Vedic religion, is considered still as a Veda proper within its own sphere. The promoters of this Veda, such as, Bhṛgu, Angirah and Atharva, attained the state of demi gods in course of time. When Śrauta texts instead of being occupied with sacrificial subject alone are drawn over such forms as Itihāsa, purāṇa, gāthā, nārāyaṇī, upaniṣad and the like, the Atharva Veda is regularly included in the Vedic literature.

Brāhman
and the
Atharva
Veda

The position of the Atharva Veda in the Upaniṣads is just the same as it is in the Śruti in general.

Upaniṣads

The Gīhya sūtras themselves being Atharvanic have greater intimacy with this Veda and refer more frequently to its writings.

Gīhya Sūtras

Having a profound hold upon popular beliefs the Atharva Veda retains its position to a great measure in the *dharma* texts. Besides the Atharvanic priests being of inestimable

Dharma
Samhitās

services to kings in times of calamity this Veda was held in high esteem by men in general

Epic The Rāmāyana and the Mahābhārata also recognise its authority as a Veda

Medical Science The most remarkable part of the Atharva veda deals with theological and medical subjects This may safely be called a compendium of ancient medicine Ayurveda is an *upāṅga* of the Atharvaveda and this came from the mouth of Brahmā It was composed not by one person but by many The portions of the Veda dealing with medicine record the history of its infancy These are followed by the Caraka and Susruta Samhitās which record the history of its maturity From after the time of Vāgbhata this science was on the wane

General Division of the Atharva-Veda Some 6000 verses of the Atharvaveda have been divided into 20 Kāndas, 38 Prapāthakas 90 Anuvākas and 760 Sūktas (Paryāya) The Caranavyūtha of Yajur Veda thus gives the divisions of the Vedas

ऋचा दशसहस्राणि, ऋचां पञ्चशतानि च ।

ऋचा अशितिपादश्च तत् पारायणमुच्यते ॥

अष्टौ सामसहस्राणि सामानि च चतुर्दश ।

ऊह्यानि सरहस्यानि एष सामगणः स्मृतः ॥

अष्टादशसहस्राणि मन्त्रब्राह्मणयोः सह ।

यजुर्वि यत्र पठ्यते स यजुर्वेद उच्यते ॥

इत्यहं शतम् नमन्ता वाजसनेष्वे ।

तावन्वाच्येन सख्यात बालखिल्य सञ्ज्ञियम् ।

ब्राह्मणस्य समाख्यात प्रोक्तमानाच्चतुर्गुणम् ॥

द्वादशाना सहस्राणि भवन्ति विंशतानि च ।

गोपय ब्राह्मण वेदेऽथर्वणे शतपाठकम् ॥

The Vishnupurāṇa says that Kavandha learnt the Atharvaveda from Sumuntu, the disciple of Vyāsa and this he taught to his two pupils Devadarsa and Pathya Maudga, Brahmbali, Śauktāyana and Pippalāda were disciples of Devasadarsa Pathya's chief pupils were Jājali, Kumuda and Saunaka Saunaka again had Babhru and Saindhavāyana as his disciples The disciples of Babhru were termed Muñjakeśa, while those of Saindhavāyana the Saindhavas The Atharva Samhitā includes the five books—*Naksatrakalpa*, *Vaitānakalpa*, *Samhitakalpa*, *Āgirasakalpa* and *Śāntīkalpa* I

Śākhās of
the Athar
va Veda

Books of
the Atharva
veda

1 अथर्ववेद समुनि सुमन्तुर्मितद्वति ।

शिष्यमध्यापयामास कवन्व सोऽपि तद्विद्वा ॥

कृत्वा तु देवदर्शाय तथा पथ्याय दक्षवान् ॥

देवदर्शस्य शिष्यास्तु—मौद्गो ब्रह्मबलिस्तथा ।

श्रीकृतायणि पिप्पलादस्तयान्यो सुनिसत्तम ।

पथ्यस्यापि द्वय शिष्या कृता ये हिंज सहिता ।

आजलि कुमुदादिच तृतीय शौनको हिज ॥

शौनकास्तु विद्वा कृत्वा ददविकां तु बभवे ।

सैन्धवमुल्लकेयाश्च भिन्नविदा विद्वा पुन ।

नक्षत्रकल्पो वेदानां सहिताना तथैव च ॥

चतुर्थं स्यादाङ्गिरस शान्तिकल्पश्च पञ्चम ॥

अथैस्तथर्वणामेते सहिताना विकल्पका ॥

विष्णुपुराण—३।६ ।

Śākhās
of the
Atharvaveda
acc to
Carana
vyūha

According to Caranavyūtha Paippala, Śaunaka, Dānta, Taita, Jāvālā, Brahmapalasa, Pradantā, Devadarsī and Cāranavidya are the nine Śākhās of the Atharvaveda. At present two Śākhās, the Śaunaka and Paippala are only found. Paippala Śākhā is followed only in Kāsmīra.

Bhāgavata
Purāṇa

The Bhāgavatapurāṇa gives the following account of the Atharvaveda. We get here the mention of Śauklāyana and Madoṣa instead of S'auktāyana and Maudga.

अथर्ववित् सुमन्तुश्च शिष्यमध्यापयत् स्वकाम् ।
संहिता सोऽपि पथ्याय देवदर्शाय चोक्तवान् ॥
शौक्लायणि ब्रह्मलि मोदीष पिप्पलायनि ।
देवदर्शश्च शिष्यास्ते पथ्यशिष्यानथ शृणु ॥
कुमुद शुनकी ब्रह्मन् । जाजलिश्चाप्यथर्ववित् ।
वभुश्चिथोथाङ्गिरस सैन्धवायन एव च ॥
अधौथिता संहिते द्वे सावर्णात् या तथापरे ।
नक्षत्रकल्प शान्तिश्च कश्यपाङ्गिरसादय ।
एते आथर्वणाचार्या भाग—१२।७।

CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE VEDAS

Principal
periods of
Vedic litera-
ture

According to Prof. Max Muller the Vedic literature falls into four principal periods —“the Chandah (2) the Mantra, (3) the Brāhmaṇ and (4) the Sūtra periods. The Sūtra period is the transitional stage between the Vedic and Classical literature.

Śruti and
Smṛiti

Another division of the Vedic works is the (1) Ś'rutis and the Smṛitis. The former includes

the Mantra and Brāhmans and the latter the Sūtra literatures and Dharma Samhitās or law books, which are mostly founded on the Sūtras. The smṛti is dependent on the S'rutis.

The Chandah period has but little works. The chanda period witnessed the composition of only one work, though it was a great one, the Rgveda. Prof Max Müller holds that this period covers 1200 to 1000 B C.

Chandah
period

The chronological limit of the Mantra period as assigned by Prof Max Muller is between 800 and 1000 B C. In this period the Samhitās of all the Vedas were composed.

Mantra
period

The Brāhmans partly bear on the sacred hymns of the Vedas and partly on the traditions and customs of the people. They are really commentaries on the Vedas and explain the performance of sacrificial ceremonies. The Brāhmans consist mainly of two parts—Vidhi and Arthavāda. According to the orthodox view of the Hindus, the Veda consists of two parts,—the Mantras and the Brāhmaṇas. The teachers of the Vedas have defined clearly these two portions and thus there is no possibility of their being confused with each other. The portions of the Vedas designated as Itihāsa, Puranas, Kalpas, Gāthās etc. are nothing but the subdivisions of the Brahmanas.

Brāhmaṇas
—their
nature and
divisions

Samhitās
and
Brāhmaṇas.

The Samhitās of different Śākhās are only different recensions of the same original collec-

tions of hymns and so their Brahmanas are also different editions of the same common original

Brāhmanas
of different
Vedas

Originally each Veda had but one Brahman. The Rgveda had Brāhmanas of the Bahvrchas, the Sāmaveda those of the Chāndogīyas, the Yajurveda those of the Taittirīyas and S'atapatha, and the Atharvaveda those of the Gopatha.

Cāranas.

The community of Brahmanas reading the same Veda is called *Carana*. It was the Brāhmanas alone who could enter a *Carana*. The most learned and the intelligent members of the *Carana* became the teachers and student, from different quarters would flock to them to learn Vedic knowledge. In course of time new *Caranas* being established in different parts of the country, the members of *Caranas* were largely increased. Besides *Caranas*, there was the *Parīṣat*. The distinction between *Caranas* and *Parīṣat* was that the members of different *Caranas* might be the members of one and the same *Parīṣat*, whereas, each *Carana* had its respective distinct members. In a *Parīṣat* discussions on the Vedic Samhitās and Brāhmanas were generally held. This was free from social envy, struggle and difference. A *Parīṣat* has thus been defined by बृहस्पति and पराशर —

Distinction
between
Carana and
Parīṣat

लोकवेदाङ्गधर्मज्ञाः सप्त पञ्च त्रयोऽपि वा ।

यथोपविष्टा विप्रास्तुः सा यज्ञसदृशी सभा ॥

For further particulars of this see Manu 12, 160-13 and Yainavalkya 19

The oral instructions of the students of the Vedic teachers were S'ākhās or schools And thus we find differences in the different recensions of the different schools

Śākhāḥ

We shall speak here a word or two on what the modern Indians have done for the furtherance of the study of the Vedic literature In the first place we give the name of Rājā Rāmmohana Roy, the founder of the Brāhma Samāj, who translated a considerable number of Upanisads into English between 1816—1819 and published a few of these in Sanskrit He intended to show that though the idolatry of the present Indian religion is objectionable, yet Indians should not embrace Christianity as they could find a pure religion in their Vedas and Upanisads With this object in view he founded his new religious community and caused it to be propagated by means of this to the Christian theologians and missionaries

Some Indian Scholars—their researches

Rājā Rāmā-mohan Roy.

The names of Reverend K. M Banerjee, Rājendralāl Mitra, R. C. Dutta and Pt Satya-vrata Sāmaśramī, deserve mention in this connection for their original researches in and publications of the Vedic literature The Letters and Notices of Rajendralal Mitra with his Indo-Aryans and his editions of the Aitareya and Taittiriya Āraṇyakas, the Aryan witness of Rev

Rev K M. Banerjee and R L Mitra

R C Dutt
 Satyavrata
 Sāmasramī
 Bāla Gangā-
 dhar Tilak
 and Hara
 Prasad Śāstri

K M Banerjee, the translation of the Rigveda by R C Dutt and translations and editions of various Vedic texts by Satyavrata Sāmasramī are, indeed monumental instances of modern Indian labour. Bāla Gangādhara Tilak's 'The Arctic Home in the Vedas', 'the Orion or the Antiquity of the Vedas', and 'the Vedic Chronology and Vedanga Jyotiḥ' are valuable works, not only for determining the age of the Veda but for making out the meanings of some obscure Vedic passages as well. Besides, thanks are also due to Profs. Haraprasād Śāstrī, Avināś chandra Dās, Trailokyanāth Bhāttācārya, Cārucandra Bandyopādhyāya, and Pyāricaran Dās Gupta and others who have written essays and books on the Vedas and allied subjects.

CHAPTER IV

BRĀHMANS, UPANISADS AND ĀRANYAKAS

The creative period which gave the Vedas to the world was followed by an epoch during which the intellect of the people embodied in the priesthood was engaged in sacrificial ceremonials. The priests wrote theological treatises in prose as well as in verse explaining the applications of the Vedic hymns and formulas in different sacrifices. These are important historically, but are quite useless as literary productions. They are grandiloquent, full of priestly conceit and antiquarian pedantry. The Brāhmans chiefly explain the mutual relation of the sacred texts and the symbolical meanings of the ceremonials.

The
Brāhmaṇs.

Both in matter and form the Vedas are poetical, whereas, the Brāhmans are written mostly in prose and are prosaic in character. The Vedic thoughts are natural and concrete but those of the Brāhmans are artificial and speculative. The Vedas are important in point of mythology, while the Brāhmans are necessary chiefly for the examination of rituals.

Vedas and
Brāhmans
contrasted,

The treatises known as Āranyakas are nothing but supplements to the Brāhmans. They often discuss topics of liturgical interest.

Ā'ranyakas.

requiring elucidation, though these do not form a part of their subject matter. The very style of the books betrays that they are of more recent origin than the *Saṃhitās*. The interval between the *Brāhmaṇas* and the *Āraṇyakas* is not very great. Vedic words and forms are much more frequently found in the *Āraṇyakas* than in the *Upaniṣads*.

Who are
eligible to
read the
Āraṇyakas

Sāyanacārya has pointed out in his introduction to the *Taittirīya Āraṇyaka* that a householder has no right to study the *Āraṇyakas* but the first four chapters of the *Taittirīya Āraṇyaka*. The *Āraṇyakas* can be read only by those living in the *Vana-prasthāśrama*. *Āraṇyakas* are so called because they were studied by persons practising severe austerities in forests.

Upaniṣad

The treatises, the study of which conduces to knowledge, wisdom and salvation, are called *Upaniṣads*. The very term *Upaniṣad* means sitting near implying thereby to know God which is but self-realisation.

Brāhmaṇas
etc. inclu-
ded in
Śruti

Like the *Brāhmaṇas* the *Āraṇyakas* and *Upaniṣads* are also included in the term *Śruti*. The *Mahābhārata* reckons the *Āraṇyakas* to be the pith of the *Vedas*, while the *S'atapatha Brāhmaṇa* says that the *Upaniṣad* is the vital essence of the *Yajurveda*.

According to the opinion of the veteran Vedic scholar *Satyavrata Sāmsrami* the

Upaniṣads may mainly be divided into four sections—Vaidika, Ārśa, Kāvya and Kṛtrima. Theogonical thoughts found in the Vedas, Brāhmans and Āranyakas proper constitute Vedic Upanishads *Īśa, Kena, Taittirīya, Kauṣītaki, Brhadāranyaka, Chāndogya* etc are included in this group. Those Upaniṣads that quote different texts of Vedic literature as authorities are called *Ārśa* Upaniṣads. Māndukeya and some other Upaniṣads fall under this section. The treatises containing invocations to different deities worshipped by different communities, are called Epic Upaniṣads. Nārāyaṇa, Nisimha, Rāma, Sarasvatī, Gaṇeśa etc belong to this group. Some modern communities not finding any authoritative Upaniṣads to support their views composed some treatises which are known as artificial Upaniṣads. Nṛsīṃhatāpanī, Gopāla Tāpanī etc, fall under this group. Besides, some scholars during epic period composed Upaniṣads to earn their livelihood, these were known accordingly as Jīvikopaniṣat.

Upaniṣads

Upaniṣad
and their
divisions

1. THE BRĀHMANS ETC OF THE RGVEDA

Of the Brāhmans of the Rgveda the Aitareya, Kauṣītaki or Sāṃkhyāyana Brāhmaṇas are now extant.

Brāhmaṇas
of the
Rgveda

The mention of the name of Paingī Brāhman in the commentary of Sāyana shows that this Brāhman existed even in his time. To the Aitareya Brāhman belong the Aitareya Āranyaka and Aitareya Upaniṣad and to the Kausitaki or Sāṅkhyāyana Brāhman belong the Kausitaki Āranyaka and Kausitaki Upaniṣad. The Ātmaśatkoopaniṣad, Vahvra Brāhmanopaniṣad and Samhitopaniṣad also belong to the Aitareya School. The second and the third Āranyaka of the Aitareya is called Samhitopaniṣad, while the 4th, 5th, and the 6th Chapters of its 2nd Aranyaka are called Aitareyapaniṣad.

(1) The Aitareya Brāhman —

The Aitareya
Brāhman -its
arrangement

The Aitareya Brāhman is divided into eight books (Pañjikās) each containing five lectures. These are subdivided into 285 kāndas. The work is mostly written in verse and only partly in prose. The first 16 chapters treat of *soma sacrifice* called Agnistoma lasting for one day. The next two chapters speak of Gavāmayana which last for 360 days. Chapters 19—24 treat of Dvādaśāha, chapters 25—32 are connected with Agnihotra and the last eight chapters describe *Abhiṣeka* ceremony &c. The thirty eight chapters describe a supposed consecration of Indra and the fortieth chapter refers to the benefit of entertaining a *purohita*.

The longest and the most interesting legend found in the Aitareya Brāhman is the story of *Śunahśepha*. This forms the 3rd chapter of the seventh book. The tale runs as follows :—

Hariscandra, a descendant of the Ikṣvāku family, had no sons. Once in a mood of bitterness and sorrow he thus questioned the venerable sage Nārada who lived in his house, "Venerable sire, what's the good of having a son?" Nārada explained the necessity of having a son. Whereupon the king asked him how he could get a son. The sage advised him to worship Varuna and, to offer to that deity the son that should be born to him first. He accordingly began to worship Varuṇa who being pleased with his devotion blessed him with a child. After its very birth the deity appeared before the king and asked him to be true to his promise. The king put him off, telling him that he would do it after the expiry of *aśauca* and after the performance of some purificatory rites and so on. Then when the prince grew up and was ready to set out for the forest putting on his armour, the god Varuṇa appeared and asked the king to do his duty. The king explained to the prince how he had got him through the favour of the god and asked him to get ready for the offering. The prince de-

Story of
Śunahśepha

clined and went to a forest, bow in hand
 The deity being displeased cursed the king
 with a fell disease of the stomach and disap-
 peared, when the prince, at the end of the year,
 returned to the kingdom Indra in the guise
 of a Brāhmaṇa appeared before him and ex-
 plained to him in kind words the good of
 wandering Then he advised him to go to the
 forest again This process was repeated six
 time-. While going out in the sixth year of his
 wandering he met with the sage Ajigarta with
 his three sons Sunahsepha, Sunalāṅgula and
 Sunabpucca, all worn-out with fasting The
 prince offered a hundred cows for each of
 the sons The sage agreed and gave him
 Sunahsepha his second son Then the prince
 offered a hundred cows to the sage and appeared
 before the king with the sage and his sons and
 related to him in detail what had happened
 The king asked Varuna if he was ready to take
 Sunahsepha as offering instead of his son
 The god consented Hariscandra that very day
 began to make preparations for a *Soma* sacrifice
 Viśvāmitra was appointed to act as the hotā
 Jāmadagni as Adhvaryu, Vasistha as
 Brāhmaṇa and Āyāśya as Udgātā. Sunahseph
 was brought before the sacrificial altar and
 there was none to bind him to the pole.
 Ajigarta at the time was ready to do the
 work if he could get another hundred cows

Ajigarta
 and his sons
 Sunahse-
 pha, Suna-
 lāṅgula
 and Suna-
 pucca

This was granted to him and he did the work. The ceremonials in connection with the sacrifice being over, the services of an executioner were needed. The brutal father was ready to kill his son only for another hundred cows. Those being given to him, he appeared with a sword in hand before the sacrificial altar. The unfortunate son finding that his end was drawing nigh prayed to Prajāpati (1 24 21) who asked him to seek the favour of the Fire god. Agni in his turn advised him to worship Savitā who told him to take shelter under Varuna. Śunahṣepha then pleased Varuṇa with several hymns, and Varuṇa directed him to invoke Agni for his deliverance. Agni again asked him to praise Viśvedevās. The Viśvedevās, delighted with his prayers, referred him to Indra who gave him a golden car. Then Asvins were invoked and at last the Dawn Śunahṣepha was released from his bond and Hariscandra from his malady.

Śunahṣepha
and his
father.

Śunahṣe-
pha's prayers
to various
deities

At the close of the sacrifice शुनःश्रेष्ठ went to the sage Vaśiṣtha, whereupon Ajigartta asked the sage to return his son to him. "The gods have given me your son" said Vaśiṣtha, "and so I cannot give him to you." शुनःश्रेष्ठ as an adopted son of Viśvāmītra got the name of Devarāta.

Śunahṣepha
was taken in
the family of
Viśvāmītra.

Then there followed an interesting dialogue between the son and his father and between शुनःश्रेष्ठ and Viśvāmītra. Viśvāmītra acknow-

Dialogue
between
Śunahśepha
and his
father and
Viśvāmitra

ledged शुन रेफ as his eldest son The first 50 sons of Viśvāmitra resented it and were cursed to be born as outcasts, but the remaining 50 acquiesced and took Śunahśepha as their eldest brother and they were blessed by their father

Tale of
Śunahśepha
in the Epics
and in the
purāṇas

The tale of Śunahśepha is narrated in its modified forms in the Rāmāyana (1 6 61) Mahābhārata (Anusāsana parvan), the Viśṇupurāṇa (4 7) and the Bhāgavatapurāṇa (77 and 16) The Mārkaṇḍeya and Padma purāṇas also relate the charming story of Hariscandra with special reference to his uncommon bounty, self denial and dutifulness in contrast with sage Viśvāmitra's hardheartedness, selfishness and ruthlessness

II THE ĀITAREYA ĀRANYAKA AND UPANISAD

Āitareya
Āranyaka
and Ūpa-
niṣad

The Āitareya A'raṇyaka consists of 18 Chapters, distributed unequally into five books The third book includes the Bahvīca Brāhman Upanisad or Āitareya Upanisad This Upanisad describes the creation of the universe by Brahmā

First book

The *first book* consisting of five chapters gives an explanation of Mahāvratā from a ritualistic and allegorical point of view. Besides, it describes different śāstras which are cited during the morning, midday and eve-

ning libations of the Mahāvratā day of the Gavāmayana sacrifice

The *second book* having seven chapters is divided into two distinct parts. The first part comprising the first three chapters deals with the allegorical signification of the Uktha. It is not directly connected with book I. The second part is really a Upaniṣad and is full of spiritual speculations.

Second book

The *third book* comprising two chapters treats of mystic meaning of the various forms of the text of the Samhita—the *nirbhūja*, the *prairna* and *ubhayamantarena*—and of the vowels semi vowels and consonants.

Third book

The *fourth book* consists entirely of Mahānāmni verses which according to Sāyaṇa are to be studied in the forest Āśvalāyana in his Śrauta Sūtra (vii 12 10) says that the Mahānāmni verses and certain puruṣapadas are to be used on the fifth day of the sacrifice.

Fourth book

The *fifth book* containing three chapters describes mainly the Nīkevalya Śāstra, the great Śāstra of the midday libation of the Mahāvratā. It is believed that Āśvalāyana wrote this book. But according to Sāyaṇa it was written by Śaunaka.

Fifth book

II Sankhāyana or Kauṣītaki Brāhman :—

This is divided into thirty chapters. It is named after its great teacher Kauṣītaka. It has the detailed descriptions of sacrifices des-

Śāṅkhāyana
or Kausītaki
Brāhmaṇ

cribed in the Aitareya Brāhmaṇ. It has not those matters described in the last ten chapters of the Aitareya Brāhmaṇ. There is mention of the famous sacrifice of Naimiṣa in it. It speaks very often of the R̥k, Yajus and Sāma Vedas. Kāśmīra was a famous seat of learning at the time of this Brāhmaṇ. Mahāvratā Brāhmaṇ is a supplementary section of this Brāhmaṇ and describes Mahāvratā rite—a ceremony which is performed on the eleventh day of the Gavāmayana sacrifice. It comprises two chapters.

IV. Kausītaki Āraṇyaka and Upaniṣad —

Kausītaki
Āraṇyaka
and
Upaniṣad

The latter portion of Kausītaki Brāhmaṇ is Kausītaki Āraṇyaka. It is divided into fifteen chapters. In some manuscripts it is seen that its four chapters (3—6) form the Kausītaki Upaniṣad.

The Kausītaki Upaniṣad is attached to the Kausītaki Brāhmaṇ. The first four chapters of the Kausītaki Āraṇyaka form the Kausītaki Upaniṣad. It has 4 Chapters and 44 Kāṇḍas and has two interesting dialogues. The one is between Indra and Prataṛdan and the other is between Ajātasatru, king of Benares, and Valāki, a priest. The former treats of philosophy and the latter theology.

II THE BRĀHMANS ETC. OF THE SĀMAVEDA

Kumārila Bhatta says in his Tantravārttika that there are eight Brāhmaṇas of the Sāma-

veda Sāyanācārya in his introduction to the Sāmavidhāna Brahman has named them. These are Tāḍya (Praudha, Mahā or Pañcaviṃśa), Shadviṃśa (a supplement to Tāḍya), Chāndogya, Jaiminīya or Tavalkāra, Sāmavidhāna, Devatādhyāya, Ārseya and Vamśa. The last four of the above eight Brāhmaṇas are nothing but the index of the Sāmaveda. These Brāhmaṇas are full of mystical speculations and are very important historically.

Brāhmaṇas
of the
Sāmaveda.

(I) THE TĀNDYA BRĀHMANA—

The Brāhmaṇa of the Tāndyas are divided into 40 chapters. The first 25 chapters form the Tāḍya or Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa. The Shadviṃśa Brāhmaṇa consists of the next 5 Chapters. The next 10 chapters are Chāndogya Brāhmaṇa. Its first two Chapters form Mantra Brāhmaṇa and next eight the Chāndogya Upaniṣad.

The Tāndya
Brāhmaṇa

The Tāndya Brāhmaṇa prescribes Vratya stomas or expiatory rites for Vratyas or those failing to take the sacred thread at the appointed time—both primary and secondary. The sixth chapter of the Shadviṃśa Brāhmaṇa is called Avadhūta Brāhmaṇa. This treats of various evil portents and their remedies.

Subject
matter

(ii) The Jaiminīya or Tavalkāra Brāhmaṇa treats of various ceremonials and contains the Kena Upaniṣad.

Jaiminīya
Brāhmaṇa

(iii) The Sāmavidhāna Brāhman explains the application of incantations for various superstitious purposes

(iv) The Devatādhyāya, A'rseya and Vamśa Brāhman furnish us with the names of the dieties of the Sāmaveda, the names of the composer of Sāmaveda hymns, and a genealogical table of the teachers of the Sāmaveda respectively

(III) *The Brāhmanas etc of the Yajurveda* —

(1) The Black Yajurveda

The Brāhman of the Black Yajurveda, as has been said before, is incorporated in its Samhitā portion. These are the Brāhmanas of the Katha and Maitrāyaṇi schools. A separate Brāhman known as the Taittirīya Brāhman belongs also to this Veda. To this Brāhman are attached the Taittirīya Āraṇyaka and Taittirīya and Mahā Nārāyaṇa or Yājñikī Upaniṣads divided into three books. The second chapter of the third book of the Taittirīya Brāhmaṇas explains the significance of the fire called Naciketā and upon this is founded the story of Naciketā and Yama in the Kathopaniṣad. To Maitrāyaṇi Samhitā belongs to Maitrāyaṇi and Maitrī Upaniṣads.

(ii) The White Yajurveda

The Mādhyandinī school of the White Yajur Veda has the famous Brāhmaṇa called

the Śatapatha Brāhman divided into 14 books and 100 chapters. The 10th and 11th books prescribe rules and regulations for constructing sacrificial altars of various descriptions. The twelfth deals with expiations and the 5th with Aśvamedha and Nāśvamedha sacrifices. The last book forms its Āraṇyaka whereof the last six chapters are Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad. It is very important from the historical point of view. It contains many interesting stories and legends. The famous story of the deluge is described here for the first time in Sanskrit literature * This appea-

Brāhman
of the White
Yajurveda.

* A small quantity of water was brought before *Manu* for the washing of his hands and face. *Manu* found in it a small fish which entreated him to spare its life and promised in return to save him from danger. "How can you," asked *Manu*, "save me from danger?" "If you," replied the fish, "rear me up and cast me into the sea, when I shall become huge of size, I shall protect you during the ensuing great deluge." *Manu* reared it and cast it into the sea. Then came the great deluge and *Manu*, complying with what the fish had told him, made a boat and bound it to the horns of a fish that came by. The fish carried the boat beyond the *Himālayas* and asked him to fasten it to a neighbouring tree and subsequently to leave the boat as the waters subsided. This goes by the name of "*Descent of Manu from the Northern mountain*." All living beings died and *Manu* gave himself up to the worship of God, praying for another creation. The offerings of *Manu* cast into water produced a charming girl whom the *Mitra* and *Varuṇa* claimed as their daughter. She refusing went to *Manu* and declared herself on being

rs in the Mahābhārata also but in a modified form

IV *The Brāhmaṇs of the Atharvaveda*

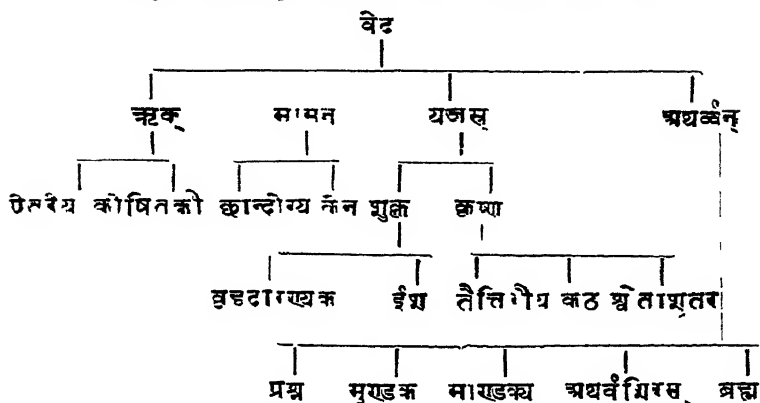
Of the Brāhmaṇs of the Atharvaveda the Gopatha Brāhman only is now known. It has principally been founded on the Śatapatha Brāhman and is divided into two books

This Veda has some 52 Upaniṣads of which Mundaka, Prasna, Atharvaśirah, Brahma, Māndukya etc are famous

We give below a table of the Vedas and their important Upaniṣads

asked to be his daughter. Then she narrated to him the secret of her birth and said that she was the benefactress of his sacrificial offering. Being asked by her Manu engaged her as the middle of the sacrifice. It is for this reason that the blessings are asked between the beginning and the end of a sacrifice. Men are the sons of this Manu and this daughter is known as Ilā. This also describes the story of Pururavaḥ and Urvaśī and that of Śakuntalā and her son Bharata. The former story traces its origin to the dialogue of the Rgveda. Kālidāsa the greatest of the Indian poets has taken these two tales as the burden of his two famous dramas, Vikramorvaśīyam and Śakuntalam.

Supplementary notes on the Brāhmans &c

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE
BRĀHMĀNS &c

Aitareya A'raryaka is divided into five sections. The 2nd and 3rd parts and specially the last four chapters of the 2nd part are called Aitareya Upanisad. The last Chapter of the Kausitaki Āranyaka is the Kausitaki Brāhmanoponisad.

Aitareya and
Kausitaki
Āranyakas

The Chāndogya Brāhman has 10 and the Jaiminiya or Tavalakāra Brāhman has 9 chapters. The last eight Chapters of the Chāndogya Brāhman are called Chāndogya Upanisad and the 9th or the last chapter of the Jaiminiya Brāhman is the Kena Upanisad.

Chāndogya
and
Tavalakāra
Brāhmans.

The Seventh Chapter of the Taittiriya A'raryaka is called Śikshāvalli or Samhitopanisad. The eighth and ninth chapters are called respectively Ānandavalli and Bhrgu-

Taittiriya
Āranyaka.

vallī The two books are also styled Vārunī The last or the 10th chapter is styled Nārāyaṇīya or Yājñikī Upaniṣad Ārunika and Kathasrutī Upaniṣads are supplements to the Taittiriya Āraṇyaka Mr Buhler points out Maitrī Upaniṣad to be the second Kanda of Maitrāyaṇī Saṁhitā

The Vāja-
saneiyī
saṁhitā

The Sixteenth Chapter of the Vājasaneyī Saṁhitā is the Satarudrīa Upaniṣad The 30th and 31st Chapters are called Puruṣa Sūkta The beginning of the 34th is Śivasamkalpa and the 40th chapter is known as Iśa Upaniṣad The last 6 Chapters of the 14th Kāṇḍa of the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa are Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad The Jāvālopaniṣad is a supplement to the Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad

The Upaniṣads may chiefly be divided into three sections according to their subject-matter

Connection
of Jīva
with the
Supreme
Soul

(i) Some Upaniṣads deal with the salvation of Jīva and the nature of the supreme soul This section comprises Āitareya, Chāndogya, Kena, Taittiriya, Iśa Bṛhadāraṇyaka, Katha, Prasna, Mundaka, Māṇḍūkya &c

Relation of
Jīva and
Ātmā

(ii) A number of A'tharvanika Upaniṣads points out that Jivātmā is one and the same with Paramātmā and that Jīva may realise it through mediation When this is done Jīva gets salvation Garbha, Ārika, Jāvāla, Kathasrutī, A'runika, Sannyāsa S'ākalya, etc fall under this head

(iii) Under the 3rd head fall those Upaniṣads that according to the difference in different communities refer to different deities, such as, Nārāyaṇa, Kṛṣṇa, Śiva, Rāma, Devī etc etc. To this class belong the Sarasvatī, Nārāyaṇa, Nīśimhatāpanī etc etc.

Epic Upaniṣads

Muktikā Upaniṣad says that there are 10 Rgvedic, 16 Sāmavedic, 51 Yajurvedic (Black Yajur 32 and White 19) and 41 Ātharvaṇika Upaniṣads.

1 Upaniṣads of the Rgveda —

Atireya, Kauṣītaki Bhr̥gva, Nirvāṇa, Nāda vindu, A'tmaprabodha, Aksamālīkā, Mudgala, Sambhāgya and Tripura.

Rgvedic Upaniṣads

2 Upaniṣads of the Sāmveda —

Kena, Chāndogya, Āruṇi, Maitreyī Maitrāyaṇī, Vajrasūcī, Yogacūḍāmaṇi, Vāsudeva, Sannyāsa, Mahā, Avyakta, Kuṇḍika, Sāvitrī, Rudrākṣa, Jāvālā and Jāvālī.

Sāmvedic Upaniṣads

3 Upaniṣads of the Black Yajurveda :—

Taittiriya, Śvetāvatara, Kathavallī, Katharudra, Brahma, Kaivalya, Garbha Nārāyaṇa, Amṛtanāda, Amṛtavindu, Kālāgnirudra, Kṣurika, Sarvasāra, S'ukarahasya, Tejovindu, Dhyānavindu, Brahmanvidyā, Yogatattva, Dakṣināmūrti, Skanda, S'ārīraka, Yogasikṣā, Ekākṣarā, Akṣi, Avadhūta, Hṛdaya, Varāha, Pañcabrahma, Yogakuṇḍalīnī, Prānāgnihotra, Kalisantarāṇa and Sarasvatīrahasya.

Kṛṣṇa Yajurvedic Upaniṣads

4. Upanisadas of the white Yajurveda :—

Śukla
Yajurvedic
Upanisads

Īśa, Brhadāraṇyaka, Jāvāla Hamsa, Paramahamsa, Suvālā, Mantrikā Nirālamba Trisikhī, Tāraka, Paingala, Adhyātma Bhikṣu, Tārasāra, S'ātyāyana, Yājñavalkya, Turīyātīta, Brāhmanamaṇḍala and Mukṭikā

5. Upanisads of the Atharvaveda :—

Parśna, Muṇḍaka, Māndukya, Atharvasiras, Atharvasikhā, Brhajjāvāla, Rāmatāpanī, Nṛsimhatāpanī, Gopālatāpanī, Tripurātapanī Jāvlā, Nārada, S'arabha, Sitā, Rāmarahasya, Devī, Kṛṣṇa, Gāpatī, Annapūrṇā, Pasupata, Suryyātma Gāruda, Śāndilya, Mahānārāyaṇa, Parivrājaka, Bhasma, Mahāvākya, Bhāvanā, Paramahamsa Datātreyā and Hayagrīva

Exercise I

Q 1. What criteria are there for distinguishing between the older and more recent parts of the Rk Samhita? About what time may the Samhita texts in its present form have been constituted? Indicate the nature and the use of the Pada text (Hons 1909 '23)

2. What evidence have we for determining the home of the poets of the Rk Veda? (Hons 1909)

3. One passage of the Rk Veda in which the soul is spoken of as departing to the waters or the plants may contain the germ of the theory of transmigration. Give an account of the passage and the theory referred to (Hons. 1910)

4 Characterise the different periods of Vedic literature (Hons 1911)

5 Discuss the different methods of interpretation which have been applied to the Veda. (Hons 1911, 14, 23)

6 Characterise special position of the Atharvaveda in Vedic literature (Hons 1912, 1919, 1924)

7 "The mythology of the Rkveda is sufficiently primitive to enable us to see clearly the process of personification by which natural phenomena developed into gods"—Explain and illustrate (Hons 1912)

8 Give an account of the works comprised under the term Yajurveda and of the special functions of the priests for whom that veda is meant (Hons, 1913)

9 What evidence is there to determine the date of the Rkveda Samhitā? (Hons 1914)

10 What are the main characteristics of the Vedic poetry? (Hons 1914)

11 Give an account of the various books comprised under the term 'Sāmveda' (Hons' 1915)

12 Discuss the cosmogonic hymns of the Rk Veda and dwell on the characters as the precursors of Indian philosophy (Hons 1916, '23, '25)

13 Discuss 'The Yajurveda introduces to us not only the geographical area different from that of the Rk Veda but also to a new epoch of religion and social life in India' (Hons, 1916)

14 Write a short essay on the state of Indian society in the age of Rk veda (Hons, 1916)

15 Fully discuss the grounds which led European

scholars to challenge the accuracy of the Sayan's interpretation of the Rk Veda (1917, '23)

16 Discuss—"By the acceptance of the doctrine of transmigration the vedic optimism which looked forward to a life of eternal happiness in heaven, was transformed into the gloomy prospect of an interminable series of miserable existences leading from one death to another" (1917)

17 Write an essay in English or Sanskrit on the philosophy of the Rkveda (1918, '23)

18 Describe the characteristics and the functions attached to the following gods of the pantheon—Dauh, Varuna, Savitā, Rudra, and Vṛhaspati, (Hons 1918)

19 Mention briefly the contents of the Atharva veda (1919)

20 Give a short account of the various recensions of the Yajurveda and state wherein the cult of the veda differs from the earlier phase of the Rkvedic religion (1920)

21 Give a short account of the Sāmveda Samhitā Hons (1921)

22 Trace briefly the evolution of religious thoughts in the Rk veda (Hons, 1925 '24)

23 Make an estimate of the importance of the Atharvda so far as the history of civilisation is concerned (1927)

24. Write an essay on the deities of the Rk veda (1928)

25 State the main points of difference between the Black and White Yajurveda. (1928)

26 Give the Probable dates of the earlier and the later periods of the vedic literature with the distinct and the prominent character and local extent of each (1929)

27 Name the most important Upanisads and give some details regarding one of them To what period may the Upanisads as a body be referred and what criteria are there to distinguish between earlier and later Upanisads ? 1913

28 Write an essay of the philosophy of the Upanisads with special reference with the idea of identity of the individual with the world soul (1917)

29 State what you know of the Upanisads (1921)

30 Discuss the part played by Brāhman, Aranyaka, and Upanisad (carefully explaining these terms in general history of speculative thoughts) (1923)

31 What is the general character of the Brahmins of the Rikveda ? (1927)

32 In what departments of literature did prose attain development ? (1927)

CHAPTER IV

SŪTRA LITERATURE

The Sūtra period according to most Western scholars extends from 600 to 200 B C During this period the Vedāngas, Anukramas &c., were composed

During the Brāhmaṇ period the ceremonials, &c. became so numerous and complex that it was very difficult for the priests to get by heart portions of Brāhmaṇs that described them There arose therefore the necessity of short treatises dealing systematically and clearly with these things. And so the *Kalpa Sūtras* came to be written These are written in prose so terse and sententious at the same time that anything like, is hardly to be found in any other literature ¹ The *Kalpa Sūtra* consists of three parts—(i) the *Śrauta Sūtra*, (ii) The *Grhya Sūtra* and (iii) the *Dharma Sūtra*. These three sūtras formed originally one book but in course of time they were split up into three distinct books. The *Śrauta Sūtras* prescribe sacrifices found directly in the Vedas. The performance of these sacrifices requires the help of officiating priests

1 There is a proverbial saying among the pandits that "an author rejoiceth in the economising of half a short vowel as much as in the birth of a son."

The Gṛhya Sūtras explain the rites to be performed by a Gṛhī and these do not require the help of the sacrificial priests but are performed by the householder himself or his *purohit*. The Dharma Sūtras are the ancient law books and they lay down the rules of conduct, the duty of all the four āśramas and deal with atonement, government, &c

Gṛhya
Sūtras and
Dharma
sūtras

The latter has many commentaries, some of these are running commentaries and others liturgical ones called Prayogavṛtti. The most popular commentary is by Traiṇyāsi and Tālabhṛṅga, but his proper name has now been found to be Keśava. Many Rgvedins perform their rites in accordance with the Sūtras of Kātyāyana, Āpastamba, and Baudhāyana, none of whom belong to the Rgveda. The followers of Āśvalāyana school are numerous but those of Sāṃkhāyana schools are small in number. The school of Śaunaka merged itself into that of his pupil, Āśvalāyana.

Rgvedic
Śrauta
Sūtras.

The Sūtras like the Vedas are not *अपौरुषेय* but are human compositions. Immense is their value from the historical stand point also. Their study makes us acquainted with the manners, laws, rites and customs of the time.

Sūtras are
human
compositions.

Thus in the Śrauta Sūtras the Indo Aryans appear as vedic sacrificers, in the Dharma Sūtras they appear as citizens and in the Gṛhya Sūtras they are stubborn house-holders adhering to their prescribed rites.

Condition
of people
during the
Sūtra period.

Dharma
Śāstras

It would not be out of place to mention here that Kalpa Sūtras being very meagre and insufficient for practical purposes Dharma Śāstras in metrical forms were composed for the guidance of kings and ministers and people in general as well

Śraūta
Sūtras of the
Rgveda

The Rgveda has two Śrauta Sūtras corresponding to the two Caranas, the Sāmkhyāyanas and the A'svalāyanas. The Sāmkhyāyana Śrauta Sūtra is connected with the Sāmkhyāyana Brāhman. This is divided into eighteen books. The A'svalāyana Śrauta Sūtra consisting of twelve books is related to the Āitareya Brāhman.

Grhya Sūtras
of the
Rgveda.

To this Veda belong the Sāmkhyāyana and Sāmbhavya Grhya Sūtras connected with the school of the Kausītakins and the Āsvalāyana Grhya sūtras belonging to the Āitareya Brāhman. To the Kalpa Sūtra of the Rgveda belongs the Vasiṣṭha Dharma Sūtra.

Śraūta Sū-
tras of the
Sāmaveda

Of the Śrauta Sūtras of the Sāmaveda three are now extant. These are the Śrauta Sūtras of *Maṣāka* also called *A'rshheyakalpa* and *Lātyāyana* connected with the Pañcaviṃśa Brāhman and the Śrauta Sūtras of Drāhyāyana. The first two belong to the Kauthuma school and the last one to the Rānāyaniya Śākhā. The Grhya Sūtra of Gobhila and that of Khādīra belong to this Veda. To this Veda also belongs the Gautamīya Dharma Sūtra.

Grhya Sūtra
of the
Sāmaveda &
its Dharma
Sūtra

There are some six Śrauta Sūtras of the Black Yajurveda.

(i) The Śrauta Sūtra of A'pastamba, (ii) the Śrauta Sūtra of Hiranyakesī, (iii) The Śrauta Sūtra of Baudhāyana, (iv) The Śrauta Sūtra of Bharadvāja, (v) The Mānava Śrauta Sūtra (vi) and the Vaikhānasa Śrauta Sūtra. Of these only two have been published

Śrauta Sū-
tras of
Black
Yajurveda.

The Āpastamba Śrauta Sūtra forms the first 24 of the 30 chapters into which the Kalpa Sūtra is divided. The Hiranyakesī is an offshoot of the A'pastambas and forms the first eighteen of the 29 chapters of the Kalpa Sūtra. The Mānava Śrauta Sūtra is connected with the Maitrāyaṇī Samhitā

Āpastamba,
Hiranyakesī
and Mānava
Śrauta
Sūtras

There are seven corresponding Grhya sūtras of the black Yajurveda, of which only three have been published

Grhya Sū-
tras of Black
Yajurveda

The 26th and the 27th books of the Āpastamba Kalpa Sūtra are the *A'pastamba Grhya Sūtra*. The 26th book is the Mantrapāṭha

Āpastamba
Grhya Sūtra.

The 19th and the 20th books of the Hiranyakesī Kalpa Sūtra forms the Grhya sūtra of the Hiranyakesins

Hiranyakesī
Grhya Sūtra.

Of the Baudhāyana's and Bharadvāja's Grhya Sūtras little is known. The Mānava Grhya Sūtra is but a repetition of the Mānava Śrauta Sūtra. The Vaikhānasa Grhya Sūtra is an extensive work. Mānava Grhya Sūtra belongs to the Black Yajurveda

Baudhāyana,
Bhāradvāja,
Mānava and
Vaikhānasa
Grhya
Sūtras.

Kātyāyana
Śrauta
Sūtra of the
white Yajur-
veda }

The Śrauta Sūtra of Kātyāyana belongs to the White Yajurveda. This is divided into 26 chapters and is similar to the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa in respect of its arrangement. Though belonging to the Yajurveda it describes strangely the ceremonials of the Sāmaveda in its three chapters (xxii—xxiv).

Pāraskara
Grhya Sūtra
of the
white
Yajurveda

Pāraskara is the Grhya sūtra of the White Yajurveda. This is also called Kāṭiya or Vājasaneyi Grhya Sūtra and is connected closely with Kātyāyana Śrauta sūtra. Yājñavalkya's Dharma Śāstra was much influenced by the work of Pāraskara.

Vaitāna
Sūtra of
the Atharva
veda

The Vaitāna Sūtra belongs to the Atharva Veda and is connected with the Gopatha Brāhmaṇa. The Sūtra of Kātyāyana exercised much influence over it. It has the important Kauśika Grhya Sūtra. This not only prescribes rules for rituals but also presents a vivid picture of the life of the Vedic Indians.

Number of
Śrauta rites

The Śrauta rites are fourteen in number and are divided principally into two equal groups. The first group comprises seven *Havih* sacrifices and the 2nd group seven *Soma* sacrifices.

The seven *Havih* sacrifices are —

Havih
Sacrifices.

अग्निधानम्, अग्निहोत्रम्, दर्शपूर्णमासौ, चातुर्मास्यानि,
आग्रयणोष्टि, निरुद्वपश्चबन्ध and सौत्रामणि ।

The seven *Soma* sacrifices are —

Soma Sac-
rifices.

अग्निष्टोम, अथग्निष्टोम, उक्ष्य, षोडशौ, वाजपेय,
अतिरात्र. and आश्वीर्याम ।

(i) अग्नाधानम् is the ceremony of consecrating fire and placing it to its proper place

Agnyā
dhāna

(ii) अग्निहोत्र is the maintenance of the sacred fire and offering of oblations of milk, sour gruel &c into it both in the morning and in the evening No priest is required for this This is of two kinds—नित्य or constant obligation and काव्य or occasional rites

Agnihotra

(iii) दर्शपूर्णमास are sacrifices to be done in the new and the full moon by the help of priests These are not so grand as the Soma sacrifice- दर्श and पूर्णमास do not refer here to the new and full-moon, but by transference of epithet to the two days immediately following them These are विक्रान्त of an इष्ट *

Darśa-Pur
namāsa

(iv) चतुर्मास्यानि—These are sacrifices to be performed every four months beginning with the month of Kārtika Thus there are three sacrifices in a year commencing in कार्तिक, फाल्गुन and आषाढ in order

Cāturmāsya

(v) आग्रयणेष्टि—Consists of an oblation to be offered with the first fruit at the end of the rainy season The oblation consisting of व्रीहि (paddy), श्यामाक (a kind of gram) and यव (oat) are to be offered successively in the rainy season, autumn and spring

Āgrāyana.

* The difference between an इष्टि and a याग is that in an इष्टि no Sāmāns are chanted while in a याग they are done.

Nirūḍha
Paśubandha.

(vi) निरुद्धपशुबन्ध—In this sacrifice beasts are offered to deities. The offerer goes high to celestial places in consequence of this performance.

saṁtrā-
maṇi

(vii) सोत्तमणि—This is also a beast sacrifice. Beasts are offered to Asvins, Sārasvata, Indra and Brhaspati and cakes called घृगोडाश्च are given to Indra, Savitā and Varuṇa.

THE SOMA SACRIFICES.

A short
account of
soma sacri-
fice

These sacrifices go on for one or many days. They sometimes go on for a year or more and are called स्रव. In the beginning of the sacrifices fire is placed on the altar, पशुयाग is observed in the middle, and it closes with the drinking of Soma-juice called सोमभिषव. There are five subsidiary parts to this sacrifice. These are (1) दीक्षणीया इष्टि, (2) प्रायणीय or अतिथि इष्टि, (3) प्रवर्णक्रिया, (4) पशुयाग (5) and सोमयाग. The performance of this raises the worshipper to the order of a द्विज or twice-born. The दीक्षणीया इष्टि casts the seed of Brāhmaṇa-birth. The Soma juice offered unto fire in the Soma sacrifice is a viand to the fetus. In the प्रायणीय sacrifice this viand is picked up. This is termed अतिथि इष्टि as Soma appears here as a guest. The प्रवर्णक्रिया renders some actions conducive to the nourishment of the fetus. The beast sacrifice removes its beastliness.

Last of all the fœtus becomes vigorous and strong partaking of a drink of Soma-juice There are three offerings to be cast into fire in this sacrifice in the morning, at noon and in the evening These are styled respectively the morning, the noontide and the evening *Savanas*

(1) अग्निष्टोम—This forms an essential part of ज्योतिष्टोम and extends to 7 days This is done in the spring The fire is praised at the outset This is the easiest kind of Soma sacrifice This requires the ministration of sixteen priests. The seven minor priests recite the स्तोम and शस्त्र * at the sacrifice during the morning, mid-day and evening libations

Agnish-
toma,

(ii) अत्यग्निष्टोम—This forms the second part of the Agnistoma sacrifice and excels अग्निष्टोम in point of fruit. This extends to 12 days

Atyagni-
stoma

(iii) उक्थ—This is a slight modification of the Agnishtoma sacrifice This is one of the seven component parts (संख्याः) of the Jyotistoma sacrifice The name of the sacrifice indicates its nature, for this refers to उक्थ an old name for शस्त्र or collection of hymns in praise of deities. This differs from स्तोम in as much as it is not sung

Ukthya

(iv) षोडशी—This is a वृद्धति of Agnistoma sacrifice This has an additional शस्त्र and an

Ṣoḍaśī.

* अग्रगौतममन्त्रसाध्यस्तुति शस्त्रम्,
प्रगौतममन्त्रसाध्यस्तुति स्तोत्रम् (स्तोम) ।

additional स्तोत्र named respectively षोडशी-श्रुत and षोडशी स्तोत्र in addition to the 15 Śāstras and 15 stotras used in the अतिरात्र sacrifice

(v) वाजपेय—This also is a विह्वति of ज्योतिष्टोम ।
 Vājapeya This extends to 17 days The priests have to wear golden wreath and the hotā puts on a garland of the fibres of lotuses

(vi) अतिरात्र—This is a component part of ज्योतिष्टोम and is a विह्वति of अग्निष्टोम । After the completion of the sacrifice, the priests drink of Soma juice 12 times from the sacrificial bowl.
 Atirātra

(vii) आप्तोर्याम—Those who do not possess or desire to possess more cattle perform this sacrifice This is in many respects similar to विश्वजित and अग्निष्टोम sacrifices
 Āptorjāma

The Gihya Sūtras prescribe five महायज्ञः, seven Pākajajñas and 18 sacraments

The five Mahā jajñas are (1) ब्रह्मयज्ञ or the study of the Vedas (2) देवयज्ञ or sacrificial ceremonies, (3) पितृयज्ञ or libations given unto the Fathers, (4) भृतयज्ञ or offerings unto the creatures and (5) मनुष्ययज्ञ or, hospitality *
 Mahā Yajñas

The seven पाकयज्ञः are हुत, प्रहुत, आहुत, श्लग्न, बलिहरण, प्रत्यवरोहण and अष्टका होम । In the opinion of others these are श्रवणाकर्म्म, सप्तबलि, आश्वगुजी, आश्वहायणी, प्रत्यवरोहण, पितृयज्ञ and अन्वाष्टका ।
 Pāka Yajñas,

N. B. According to A'svalāyana the

* अध्यापन ब्रह्मयज्ञ पितृयज्ञस्तु तर्पणम् ।

होमी दैवो बलिभौती नृयज्ञोऽतिथिपूजनम् । मनु । ३।७०

number of पाकयज्ञs are three These are हुत, प्रहुत and आहुत ।

The ऋष्टकाs are three in number—पूषाष्टका, मासाष्टका, शाकाष्टका । They are celebrated on the कृष्णाष्टमी of पौष, माघ and फाल्गुन respectively †

The eighteen sacraments are :—

- (1) गर्भाधान, (2) पु सवन (3) सौमन्तीघ्नयन (4) जातकर्म,
 (5) नामकरण, (6) निष्क्रामण, (7) अन्नप्राशन, (8) कर्षवेध,
 (9) चील, (10) अक्षरस्वीकरण (11) उपनयन, (12) वृत, Sacraments
 (13) समावर्तन (14) विवाह (15) उपाकर्म, (16) उत्सञ्चन,
 (17) शिशुबलि (18) and अन्तर्ष्टि ।

Of these the first three relate to conception The व्रतs comprise महानास्त्री, महा उपग्नियन and गार्दान and were practised during the Brahmacharya period. For a fuller description of these rites see Manu (Chapter II) and Grhya Sūtras

† Cf, आयुहायण्या ऊर्द्धे कृष्णाष्टमीसु तिष्ठन्नु चाष्टकाख्येन कर्मणा श्राद्धेन च पितॄन् यजेत् ॥

CHAPTER V.

THE UPAVEDAS.

According to the Caranavyūha of Śaunaka the A'yurveda was drawn from the Rgveda, Dhanurveda from the Yajurveda, Gandharvaveda from the Sāmaveda and Śilpa or Sthāpātya from the Atharvaveda *

Āyurveda
its history

Āyurveda—is the entire science of life. It is not an encyclopædia of ancient medical works, but a treatise on biology as well. According to Bhāvaprākṣa Dhanvantari is the author of Āyurveda which contains 100000 ślokas and is divided into 8 books. The 6th book is called *agīda* meaning the process by which one can get rid of diseases. It is said that a sage named Agniveśa learnt Āyurveda from Ātreya and subsequently composed a treatise on medicine known as Āyurveda Samhitā, whereupon his preceptor, Nārada and the gods were much pleased with him. But Brah-maivarta purāṇā says that it was Bhāskārā-cārya who composed Āyurveda Samhitā. Then a large number of men composed treatises on medical science selected from the Atharva

* ऋग्वेदसायुर्वेदोपवेदो यजुर्वेदस्य धतुर्वेदोपवेद ।

सामवेदस्य गन्धर्ववेदोपवेदोऽथर्ववेदस्य शिल्पशास्त्रा नीति ॥

शौणकोक्तचरणव्यूहः ।

Āyurveda Of these we give the names of a few books with the names of their authors against them

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 चिकित्सातत्त्वविज्ञान—मनोरम | 2 चिकित्साकौमुदी—काशीराज |
| 3 चिकित्सासारतन्त्र—अश्विनौसुत | 4 चिकित्सादर्पण—दिवोदास |
| 5 वैद्यकसर्वस्व—नकुल | 6 वैद्यसन्देशभञ्जन—जाकयोगी |
| 7 व्याधिसिन्धु, विमर्द्दन—सहदेव | 8 जीवदान—भगवान् ऋषि |
| 9 ज्ञानार्थवमहातन्त्र—यमराज | 10. सर्वसारक—जाजलि मुनि |
| 11 वेदाङ्गसार—जाजलि मुनि | 12 ज्ञानमन्त्र—कोपिदमुनि |

According to Susruta this दिवोदास was Dhanvantari incarnate, but Viṣṇupurāṇa points him as the grandson of Dhanvantari. The name दिवोदास found in the Rgveda has no connection with this. It is also said that this Veda was delivered by Brahmā, Indra, Asvins, Dhanvantari, Bharadvāga, Ātreya and others. This first arose, in heaven and then through sages came down to earth. It gives the theory of diseases and medicines and the method of treating bodily disorders. Originally it was very voluminous, and then it was abridged by Caraka. It is divided into eight sections, viz., सूत्र, शरीर, इन्द्रिय, चिकित्सा, निदान, विमान, विकल्प and सिद्धि। They deal respectively with *Technics, Anatomy, Organs, Therapeutics, Pathology, Diseases and their clinical studies, Toxicology, and Success.*

Divodāsa
and the rise
of Ayurveda

Susruta deals with five of these sections to the exclusion of इन्द्रिय, विमान and सिद्धि। It, for the sake of convenience, gives eight

Suśrutā
Samhitā.

characteristic features of the Ayurveda—These are *Salyatantram*, *Sulākya-tantram*, *Kāya cikitsā*, *Bhuta vidyā*, *Kaumārabhṛtya*, *Agada-tantram* *Rasāyanatantram* and *Vājikanatantram* Of these the *first* deals with surgery, the *second* with the upward fissures or cavities of the body, the *third* with general diseases, the *fourth* with Demonical diseases, the *fifth* with the management of children, the *sixth* with toxicology, the *seventh* with the science of rejuvenation and the *eighth* with the science of Aphrodisiacs The anatomical section of the treatise deals with Midwifery

Dhanurveda -
its history
and subject
matter.

धनुर्वेद—is the treatise the study whereof brings about the knowledge of arms It is said that the sage अग्निवेश born of the fire god made this Veda Dronācārya and others were his disciples and it was he who first invented fire-arms The authorship of this Veda is also attributed to the sage Viśvāmitra There are four sections in it—दौघा, मयह, सिद्धि and प्रयोग The first defines the term धनु and speaks of persons who are fit to use it The word धनु is not used here in the sense of a bow alone but it indicates all weapons that can be hurled at or struck upon the enemy, such as, discus swords, spears, arrows etc This weapon may be used by all the four sorts of forces The second describes the missiles and the line of

teachers who were possessed of the secrets of their use. The third deals with efficacious charms and the ways and means of success as well. The fourth has lessons on application of these weapons. This art was chiefly meant for princes to punish the enemy and maintain discipline and order in the kingdom. The origin of this Veda is ascribed to Brahmā.

गन्धर्ववेद—Is a treatise on music. The sage Bharata is said to be its author. It deals with music consisting of the three things song-, dances and musical instruments. This is a help to meditation upon god and final emancipation.

Gandharva
veda

स्थापत्य or शिल्प—This is a treatise on mechanical art. There are sixty-four books of this subject propagated by Viśvāmitra for the improvement of mechanical art. This includes politics, training of horses, science of looking etc. composed by various sages at different times.

Śilpa

Some books of आयुर्वेद and गन्धर्ववेद are extant. These are meant mainly for material prosperity. About the other two Upavedas little is known.

The Kāma-Śāstra of Vātsāyana is also included in the Āyurveda. It too aims at acquiring knowledge in diseases and their causes, as well as the cure of diseases and their prevention.

Kāma Śūtra

There are four Upāṅgas or subsidiary

limbs also These are Purāṇa, Dharma-Śāstra, Upāṅgas, Mimāṃsā and Nyāya.

The Purāṇas are 18 in number They are divided into three classes in accordance with the worship they inculcate to Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva respectively [For a fuller description of these see the chapter on Purāṇas in the classical period]

There is difference of opinion about the number of Dharma-Śāstras Mr Colebrooke in his *Digest of the Hindoo Law* has said that there were more than a hundred books on this subject During the administration of Lord Hastings and Cornwallis some 28 Dharma Samhitās were discovered by Sir William Jones, Bholānāth Kumār and others The names of twenty composers of Dharma Śāstras are found in the following verses of याज्ञवल्क्य संहिता ।

मन्वविविष्णुहारीतयाज्ञवल्क्यीशनीलजिरा ।

यमापस्तम्बसम्बर्त्ता कात्यायनहृदयती ॥

पराशरव्यासशङ्खलिखिता दक्षगौतमौ ।

शाततपो वशिष्ठश्च धर्मशास्त्रप्रयोजका ॥

Antiquarian researches have brought to light the names of some thirty Dharma Śāstras So far as can be surmised there were some 50 Dharma Samhitās in ancient India The twenty enumerated above are prevalent in the whole of India Brahma-

vaivarta purāṇa mentions the names of 14 Dharmā Śāstras and these are famous for their scholarly writings

मीमांसा—Jaiminī is the author of this He has with great care removed the apparent differences existing in the different injunctions of the Vedas [The subject has subsequently been dealt under its special head]

Mīmāṃsā

न्याय—This treatise composed by Gautama is rightly called the mirror for understanding all other scriptures, for it sharpens the intellect of the reader and makes him eligible for understanding a thing, however difficult it might be

Nyāya

The Vedāṅgas or subsidiary studies to the Vedas are six in number. They are शिखा, कल्प, व्याकरण, निरुक्त, छन्द and ज्योतिष। It is said that Chandah is the feet of the Vedas, Kalpa their hands, Jyotish represents the eyes and Nirukta their ears, Śikshā is the nose of the Vedas and Vyākaraṇa their mouth

Vedāṅgas

शिखा—This has six chapters treating of letters (vowels and consonants), accents (acute, low and circumflex), measure (short, long and

Śikṣā

* छन्द पादौ तु वेदस्य हस्तौ कल्पोऽथ पठ्यते ।

ज्योतिषामयन चक्षुर्निर्दत्त श्रोत्रमुच्यते ॥

शिखा ग्रास्य तु वेदस्य मुख व्याकरण स्मृतम् ।

तस्मात् साङ्गमधीत्यैव ब्रह्मलोके महीयते ॥

† प्रदीपः सर्वविद्यानामुपायः सर्ववर्त्मनाम् ।

आश्रयः सर्ववर्त्मना विद्योद्देशे प्रकीर्तिता ॥”

prolonged) efforts, (inward and outward), the avoidance of any kind of fault in uttering, and euphonic combination.

Kalpa कल्प—Or more properly Kalpa Sūtras gather together hymns found in different Samhitās of different schools to be applied to a particular ceremony

Vyākaraṇa व्याकरण—Or grammar, treats of base, affixes, suffixes, &c There are nine authoritative grammars These are Aindra, Cāndra, Kāśakītsna, Kauṇāra, Śākatāyana, Sārasvata, Āpīśala, Śākala and Pāṇini The last mentioned grammar treats of both Vedic and Classical languages

Nirukta निरुक्त—This may properly be called the supplement to the grammar The author of the book is Yāska. He explains some Vedic verses and gives the synonyms of Vedic words and their derivations This is divided into 18 chapters The last two are called supplements Some say that the first 14 chapters are divided into 480 lessons, while in the opinion of others their number is 448 or 443 The first 17 chapters are divided into three books called Kāṇḍas These are Naighantuka, Naigama and Daivata. The first consists of 5 chapters, the second 6 and the third also 6 The first Kāṇḍa gives the synonyms of words, the second explains the Vedic verses and the third enumerates

and divides the Vedic gods into three classes in accordance with the places (the earth, the air and the heaven) they live in. But Sāyana in his 'Introduction to the Rgveda' says that the Naighuntaka Kānda has three chapters and the Naigama and the Daivata, each, one chapter. He does not mention the names of its supplements. Thus in his opinion Nirukta comprises only three Kāṇḍas divided into five chapters.

छन्द—This is a book on prosody. This treats of various metres containing feet of various lengths according to short and long syllables standing in the beginning, middle or end. There are twenty one metres in all, of which seven are very important. Pingala and others have written treatises on this. [For fuller account see Introduction.]

Chandah

ज्योतिष—This treats of auspicious and inauspicious moments for starting for a place or beginning a trade, &c. This also deals with the motion of the earth and other planets &c. It is said that the Rgveda had 36 works attached to it, the Yajurveda 13 works more besides these 36 in common with the Rgveda. Atharvaveda has works quite distinct from these. There is no mention of works attached to the Sāma Veda.

Jyotiṣ

CHAPTER VI

THE HINDU PHILOSOPHY

Origin of
philosophy

Indian philosophy traces its origin to the hymns of the Vedas. It is chiefly pantheistic and idealistic. The term दर्शन corresponding to the English word philosophy came perhaps into use when the loose philosophical thoughts had to a certain extent been systematised.

Darśana—its
explanation
and source

The word दर्शन means an insight into the nature of *self*. The term possibly traces its origin to the expression, 'आत्मा वा अरे द्रष्टव्यं श्रोतव्यं मन्तव्यं निदिध्यामितव्यम्' (Br. 2-4-5), that was said by Yajñavalkya to his wife Maitreyi at the time of his departure from home to Prājñya. It was then versified by later sages in the following manner—

श्रोतव्यं श्रुतिशब्दस्य मन्यव्यष्टोपपत्तिभिः ।

मन्वा च सततं ध्येय एतं दर्शनं हि तव ॥”

wherein the very word दर्शन occurs. There are also some heterodox philosophies of which the Buddhist and Jaina philosophies are important.

Scope of
philosophy—
its divisions

The scope of philosophy is to inquire about the relation existing between the cause and its effects. In the opinion of some the cause is quite different from its effect, while

in the opinion of others the cause is identical with and at the same time different from its effect. There is another set of philosophers who regard the cause to be totally identical with its effect and thus philosophy is divided into three sections preaching the doctrine of *Dualism*, qualified *Monism* and pure *Monism*.

The religion of Brāhmins and Upaniṣads flourished in India about 1000 B C, and during that time a good deal of philosophical discussions were carried on, but no established school was yet founded. From this it is clear that though the doctrine of each is mentioned by the others, these were not contemporaneous. These floating tenets when collected and systematised, took the shape of a distinct school and went by the name of its propounder. * Just after the *Brahmanic period* different schools of philosophy and religion were founded about 600 B C.

Age of
philosophy

Nyāya, Vaiśeṣika, Sāṃkhya, Pātañjala, Pūrva-Mīmāṃsā and Uttara-Mīmāṃsā are collectively known as षड्दर्शन or *six schools of philosophy*. Mādhavācārya notices ten other systems in his *Sarva Darśana Samgraha*. Śaṅkarācārya too notices these in his सर्वमत-संग्रह ।

ṣaḍa
darśana

* गीतमादिमुनीनां तत्तच्छास्त्राचारकालमेव श्रूयते, न तु बुद्धि-पूर्वकवृत्तम् । अद्वैत ब्रह्मसिद्धिः ।

Divisions
of Hindu
philosophy.

The schools of Indian philosophy are often divided into two classes—*Āstika* and *Nāstika* recognising and not recognising the existence of soul after death in order. This division is unsatisfactory. The *Cārvāka* system alone can by this be declared as *Nāstika*. It would be better to classify them as the *Vaidika* and *Avaidika* systems, the one recognising and the other repudiating the authority of the Veda. The *Cārvāka*, *Bauddha* and *Ārhatta* systems fall under the second group, while the remaining systems under the first. It should be noticed here that of the *Vaidika* philosophies, the *Rāmānuja* system propounded by *Rāmānuja*, *Pūrṇaprajña* system propounded by *A'nanda-tīrtha* and *Śaiva* system started by *Nīlakantha* and others explain *Brahma Sūtra* of *Vyāsa*, but they have given different expositions of the aphorisms and differ from that of *Śaṅkarācārya*. The system expounded by *Śaṅkara* and his followers goes by the name of शुद्धाद्वैतवाद or the doctrine of *pure non dualism*, while that expounded by *Rāmānuja* and his followers is known as विशिष्टाद्वैतवाद or the doctrine or *special non dualism*.

Different
ways of
divisions

The above mentioned philosophies may, in accordance with the different philosophical principles, as said before, be classified in another way. This line of division would give rise to the following four classes of tenets :—

1 *Asatkāranavāda* or *Asadvāda*—According

to this theory everything seeming to exist has come out of nothing. So there is no existence of a non-phenomenal cause to produce a phenomenon. This view is adopted by the Buddhistic school.

Asadvāda

2 *Asatkāryavāda or Ārambhavāda*—

This theory says that the cause previously extant produces a previously non-existent effect. The Naiyāyikas, the Vaiśeṣikas and the Mīmāṃsakas adopt this view.

Ārambhavāda

3 *Parināmavāda or the theory of evolutionary transformation*:—This explains that everything before its evolution exists in अव्यक्तावस्था or potential state. The activity of the cause helps only to bring about its manifestation. This is ascribed to Sāṃkhya and Pātanjāli systems.

Parināmavāda

4 *Vivartavāda or the theory of evolution without substantial mutation*:—According to this theory the phenomenal universe comes out of the *ultimate cause* through the agency of *Māyā*, its own nature. The world in reality is not real but appears to be so on account of our ignorance. Brahma, the ultimate cause, is the only real thing. Thus the world is the विवर्तन or development of Brahma, which is called its आवर्तन. This view is adopted by the Vedantic school and specially by Śaṅkara and his followers.

Vivartavāda

The difference between the *Parināma* and

Difference between Vivarta and Parināma vādas *Vivartavādas* is that in the former the अविज्ञान or the cause is transformed, while in the latter the अविज्ञान is not really transformed but appears to be so through illusion or *Māyā*

Satkārya Vāda *N B* Both the *Parināma* and *Vivartavādas* may together be called *Satkāryavāda*, in as much as they exist originally in a potential state

The following sloka summarises the *Prāmānyas* or the sources of true knowledge recognised by the Indian philosophers with a view to establish the principles of their own respective systems

Evidence

प्रत्यक्षमेकं चार्वाका कणादसुगतौ पुन
 अनुमानञ्च तत्रापि साध्या शब्दश्च ते उभे ।
 न्यायैकदेशिनोऽप्येव उपमानञ्च केवलम्
 अर्थापत्त्या सहितानि चर्त्वाण्य ह प्रभाकरा ।
 अभावः षष्ठान्येतानि भट्टा वेदान्तिनस्तथा
 सम्भवैतिह्ययुक्तानि त्विति पौराणिका जगुः ।

Theory of transmigration The theory that every individual passes after death into a new existence in heaven or hell or in the bodies of men or animals, was so firmly established in the 6th century B C that Buddha adopted it into his own religious system This idea originates from a couple of passages in the 10th mandala of the Rgveda (X 163, X 14.2) But the western scholars are of opinion that this theory was prevalent among the aborigines of India and the Aryans had taken it from them and developed it

Sāmkhya Philosophy

The system of Sāmkhya philosophy is ascribed to Kapila, an ancient sage of India. He is called the Descartes of India. The name Sāmkhya means something relating to sam-khyā or reasoning. Then Sāmkhya philosophy comes to mean a system of philosophy devoted to reasonings alone. The problems regarding man, nature and man's relation to the universe are answered here from pure reasoning. This system is otherwise known as Sastī tantra or Tantra alone. According to this system the ultimate and final unit of elements is a composition of Puruṣa and Prakṛiti (matter and energy) or in other word proton and electron of modern conception, that are nothing but the positive and negative charges. Matter itself may be regarded as a form of vibrant energy now lying quite distinct from each other. In their final analysis they may merge into one—energy itself—in the terms of modern scientists atoms of electricity—proving the oneness of Puruṣa as is preached by the Vedānta.

This system explains the theory of *Evolution* which is the resultant with integration of matter and dissipation of force. Like वैशेषिकदर्शन it does not hold atom to be the ultimate and final unit of elements. The progressive advance of evolution is from non-mani-

The author
and the ex-
planation of
the titles

Subject
matter

fest into the manifest, from primordial matter into elements and from elements into inorganic substances. Thus the complex world has come before our view God finds no place in this system, for if the theory of evolution is accepted He becomes superfluous in the cosmic order of existence So says साङ्ख्य प्रवचनसूत्र—ईश्वरमिहे । सुक्तवद्वयोरन्यत्राभावात् तदसिद्धि १।६५—१३

Works and
commenta-
ries on the
system

Of the extant works of this system the Sāṃkhya Sūtra of Kapila and the Sāṃkhya Kārikā of Iśvarakīṣṇa are important The former has been commented by Viśṇūbhikṣu and Aniruddha and the latter by Gaudapāda, Vācaspati-miśra, Rāmakānta, and Nārāyaṇatīrtha These commentaries are respectively known as Sāṃkhya Pravacana Bhāṣya, Vitti, Bhāṣya, Sāṃkhya Tattva Kaumudī, Sāṃkhya Kaumudī, and Sāṃkhya Candrikā The Sāṃkhya Pravacana Sūtra contains about 527 aphorisms divided into six Chapters The Sāṃkhya Kārikā consists of 72 distiches Besides, we have Sāṃkhya Sāra of Viśṇūbhikṣu and an old work Tattva Samāsa which is very rare *

* For translations and English works on the system the students are referred to Wilson's translation of Sāṃkhya Kārikā with Gaudapāda's Commentary, Dr Balaantine's translation of Sāṃkhya Sūtra, Mr Colebrooke's translation of Sāṃkhya pravacana bhāṣya and Sāṃkhya Sāra etc

At the outset the Sāṁkhya Sūtra says :—
 The ultimate object of man is absolute freedom from three kinds of pain, viz., (1) bodily and mental (2) natural and extrinsic and (3) divine or supernatural * According to Kapila final emancipation is obtained by knowledge alone which is acquired by the knowledge of 24 elements These principles or तत्त्व with puruṣa are divided in four different ways, in as much as they are प्रकृति विकृति, प्रकृति-विकृति and अनुभवरूप, i.e., neither प्रकृति nor विकृति This system in dualism as opposed to monism आत्मा (soul) and प्रकृति (primordial nature) are the two things eternal and self-existing आत्मा is free from three kinds of guṇas or qualities and action It is beyond happiness and misery and pleasure and pain प्रकृति is worked upon by the three guṇas When there is equilibrium of the three guṇas there is no creation Creation follows only when there is unequal distribution of these guṇas When this equilibrium is broken Prakṛti marches on its courses of evolution and we get the 24 principles or tattvas From Prakṛti comes Mahat which in its turn generates Ahaṁkāra From Ahaṁkāra are sprung Pañca Tanmātras and

Subject
matter of
Sāṁkhya
System

* अयं त्रिविधदुःखात्यन्तनिवृत्तिरत्यन्तपुरुषार्थः । १।१।१। सांख्य-सूत्र

दुःखद्वयाभिघाताज्जिज्ञासा तदपघातके हेतौ ।

दृष्टे सापार्था चेत् नैकान्तात्यन्ताभावत् । १ । सांख्यकारिका

Ekādaśa Indriyas † *Pañca Mahābhūtas* come of *Pañca Tannātras* ‡ These 24 Principles with *Puruṣa* are known as the 25 categories or *Tattvas* of *Sāṃkhya* प्रकृति or primordial matter is not capable of change The seven principles beginning from सद्मन् partake the nature of both प्रकृति and विकृति The eleven sense organs and five gross elements are विकृति alone and the पुरुष is neither प्रकृति nor विकृति प्रकृति is full of माया and पुरुष though independent by nature, is covered with माया owing to its contact with प्रकृति If once this contact is cut off पुरुष is ever free With the help of eight kinds of asceticism this bondage of *Puruṣa* can be cut off

Number of
souls

Kapila recognises an infinite number of souls, on the ground that if it were otherwise the salvation of one would entail the total extinction of all bondage and the consequent dissolution of the universe, but this is not what takes place

† बुद्धिन्द्रियाणि चक्षु श्रोत्राण्यरसनत्वगाह्यानि ।

वाक्पाणिपादपायपश्चान् कर्मेन्द्रियान्याह ॥

सांख्यकारिका । २७ ।

उभयात्मकमन्नं मनः &c—कारिका—२७ ।

‡ प्रकृतेर्मेधास्ततोऽहकारस्तस्माद्गण्यं षोडशकम् ।

तस्मादपि षोडशकात् पञ्चम्यं पञ्चभूतानि ॥ कारिका । २२ ।

1 चतुर्विंशतितत्त्वज्ञो यत्र तदाश्रमे वसेत् ।

जटी मुण्डी शिखी वापि मुच्यते नात्र स शयः ॥

He admits three kinds of evidence—*
Vedic authority, reasoning and perception
Existence of Tattvas is dependent upon these
evidencies प्रकृति and those derived from
prakriti are proved by perception and reasoning,
while *Purusa* is proved by Vedic authority
alone

Evidences

Satkāryavāda—According to Buddhistic
philosophy some thing is produced out of no-
thing (असत् सञ्जायते) Naiyāyikas, on the other-
hand hold that nonentity is produced out of
entity (सतोऽसञ्जायते) Vedantins hold that the
effect is nothing but *vivarta* of the self existent
ब्रह्म In the opinion of the Sāmkhyās both
cause and effect are real and distinct (सत् सञ्जायते)
This system refutes the other three by saying
that an unreal thing can never have any connec-
tion with a real thing and creation of a
thing without having connection with its
cause is impos-sible'

Save and except soul everything else is प्रकृति
or derived from प्रकृति Everything else but
soul is material The soul alone is non-

Nature of
the tattvas

* इष्टमनुमानमाप्तवचनं च सर्वप्रमाणसिद्धत्वात् ।

द्विविधं प्रमाणमिष्टं प्रमेयसिद्धिं प्रमाणाद्धि ॥ का

1 असत्ताद्रास्ति सम्बन्धकारणं सत्त्वसङ्गिभिः ।

असम्बन्धस्य चोत्पत्तिमिच्छती न व्यवस्थितिः ॥

material† Kapila is the most bigoted materialistic philosopher ever born. It has been said before that Kapila recognises 25 categories only. It is to be noted that God finds no mention in the entire body of these 25 *principles*.

Whether
Kapila is an
atheist

Now the question arises if the propounder of the system is a thorough going atheist. It is often assumed that he was so, but Vijnānabhikṣu in his commentary on the Sāṃkhya Sūtra has tried his best to prove that he was not. His argument is that if Kapila had denied the existence of God he would have written “ईश्वराभावात्” instead of ‘ईश्वरानिङ्ग’ in his Sūtras. Kapila said only this that the existence of God is incapable of being proved by processes of reasoning.

Mental
philosophy
of Kapila

It is necessary to understand clearly that Kapila's mental philosophy was psychology i.e. the distinction between the senses, organs, the mind, the consciousness, the intellect, the elements and the soul. The five senses simply receive impression from without, and the five organs of sense perform their own functions. The mind is nothing but a sense organ. Consciousness individualises these impressions as the mind and the intellect distinguish, discriminate and form them into concepts.

Objects and
Sensation

According to Kapila the elements proceed from consciousness. Kapila herein seems to

† मूलप्रकृतिरविकृतिः स इदानीं प्रकृतिविकृतयः सन् ।

षोडशकस्तु विकारो न प्रकृतिर्न विकृतिः पुरुष ॥ का

think like Bishop Berkeley and Hume that objects are but permanent possibilities of sensation

The Linga Sarīr or subtle body consisting of 13 elements passes away with the soul on death, so only the gross body of the five elements remains. The Soul with this subtle body enters into the body of a person at the time of his birth. It is this subtle body that suffers or enjoys and not the *soul*

Subtle body

Yoga-system

By the side of the Sāṃkhya philosophy stands Patañjali's Yoga system. Patañjali admits one element more and that is God. "God is a *puruṣa* untouched by pain, action, mutation and desire and in Him has knowledge found its perfection". Thus the gap left by Kapila is filled up by Patañjali. So this philosophy is sometimes called Sesvara Sāṃkhya philosophy.

Yoga system

The Yoga system consisting of 194 aphorisms is divided into 4 chapters called *pādas*. They are chapters on meditation (*Samādhi*), practices (*Sādhana*), occult powers (*Vibhūti*) and salvation (*Kaivalya*).

Arrangement

Patañjali like Kapila gives eight means by which perfect knowledge can be attained

1. क्लेशकर्मविपाकाशयैरपराष्ट पुरुषविशेष ईश्वर । १ । २४

तत्र निरतिशय सर्वज्ञत्ववौनम् । १ । २५ ।

2. यमनियमासनप्राणायामप्रत्याहारधारणाध्यानसमाधयोऽष्टावङ्गानि २ । २८

Means and
efficacy of
Yoga.

This process is called "*Yoga*" whereby is meant the regulation of mind with the object of controlling its functions. By occult powers a man may know the past and the future, the near and the distant, converse with spirits and travel in the air or through water. The *summum bonum* is attained by the complete extinction of unhappiness by constant pursuit of true knowledge and meditation of God.

Mental
philosophy

His mental philosophy is almost like that of Kapila. The object of Yoga is final emancipation.

Works and
commenta-
ries on the
system.

The standard commentary on Patañjali is Vyāsa's Yoga Sūtra Bhāṣya. There are also Tattvavāisāradī of Vācaspati, Rājamārtanda of king Bhoja of Dhārā and Yoga-vārtika of Viṣṇānabhikṣu on it. Nāgoji Bhatta Upādhyāya, a Mahārāstra Brāhmaṇa, has written a commentary on it named Pātañjala Sūtra Vitti †

† Dr. Ballantine has translated portions of Yoga Sūtras and its commentary into English. The whole Yoga Sūtra has been translated in the Pandit, published from

NYĀYA-SYSTEM

The Nyāya system was founded by Gotama who is rightly called the Aristotle of India. Akṣapāda is another name of Gotama and hence this philosophy is called akṣpāda darsāna also. This system is also called Tarka Sāstra and Ānvikṣikī Sāstra in as much as it deals philosophy with reasonings and arguments. His system is called the old (Prācīna) Nyāya.

This system has been much developed and enlarged by various philosophical scholars of Navadvīpa with Gangeśa Bhaṭṭa at the head. Like the Sāṃkhya and the Yoga systems, this system also aims at the final emancipation of soul. According to this philosophy ordinary souls are infinite in number corresponding to our infinite Jivātmās. Caitanya is but an attribute of soul which arises from inter connection of the soul and mind. But over and above these there is the supreme soul, the seat of eternal knowledge and the maker of all things. The Naiyāyikas say that as the existence of a thing having a definite shape and parts implies the existence of its maker, so existence of the universe establishes the existence of God, its maker. Besides they hold that without the intervention of an intelligent being a post action cannot be required in future.

A short notice
of the Nyāya
System

Creation is an act of divine grace. The misery of man being the result of this action, it does not conflict with God's kindness.

This system tries to establish the monism of the Vedānta. The sixteen categories are meant for the preservation of 'absolute truth, as thorny hedges for the protection of seeds'. This aims at creating indifference also². In it we find as in the Vedānta, the three sorts of existence—real, conventional and illusory³. Knowledge and not action is the way to attain salvation. Prameya or the objects of knowledge are 12 in number viz (1) soul (2) body (3) senses (4) the objects of senses (5) intellect (6) mind, (7) production (8) fault, (9) transmigration (10) retribution (11) pain (12) and emancipation.

The Naiyāyikas acknowledge one evidence more and it is Upamāna and thus the total number of evidence is four.

The Naiyāyikas deal with sixteen different categories viz प्रमाण-प्रमेय सार-प्रयोजन दृष्टान्त-

(१) “तत्तुल्यवसायसरक्षणार्थं जल्पवितण्डे वीजप्ररोधसंरक्षणार्थं कण्टकशस्त्रावरणवत्” ।

२। “बुद्ध्या विवेचनानु भावानां याथात्म्यानुपलब्धिसत्त्वपक्षेण पटलद्विभावानुपलब्धिवत् तदनुपलब्धिः” ।

“स्वप्नविषयाभिमानघट् अथ प्रमाणप्रमेयाभिमानः”

३। “मिथ्योपलब्धिविनाशस्तत्तुल्यज्ञानात् स्वप्नविषयाभिमानविकाशवत् प्रतिबोधिः” ।

मद्वान्त, अवयव, तर्क, निश्चय, वाद, जल्प, वितण्डा, हेत्वाभास, कल, जाति and निगृह्यन्त, for they maintain that the knowledge of these categories is the means of acquiring self-knowledge. These sixteen categories have again been subdivided in various ways.

The book is divided into five chapters, each of which contains two Āhnikas or lectures. Each Āhnika has again Prakaranas, both elaborate and short. The ten Āhnikas have altogether eighty four Prakaranas. The number of Prakaranas varies from four to seventeen. The first and second Āhnika of the first chapter speak of the utility of the work in the shape of emancipation, characteristics of sixteen categories, and the fallacies preliminary and final. The second chapter tests the evidences and proves the imperishable nature of words and establishes the expressive power of words. The third has discourses about Soul, Body and Organs of senses. It also establishes the decaying nature of intellect and quality of *Ātma* etc. The fourth describes the six *Padārthas*, viz—inclination, fault, death, result, sorrow and salvation. It speaks also of creation, the theory of atoms and the test of true knowledge. The last chapter,

The book—
its division
and subject
matter

Benares and the whole Sūtra with the gloss of Vacaspathi has been rendered into English by Ramē prasad Chandra. For a fuller list See Hall's Bibliographical index PT 2—10

distinguishes species from individual and discusses Nigrahasthāna etc

Causes and effects

His Holiness, the great sage Vyāsa has spoken thus of *Nyāya Śāstra* in the *Mokṣa Dharma Parva* of the *Mahābhārata* :—
 “ततोपनिषद् तात । पान्तिषिषास्तु पार्थिव । मय्यामि मनसा तात । दृष्ट्वा चान्वोक्षिष्ये पराम ॥” I shall churn the essence of Upaniṣad ‘O, my darling through the medium of Tarka Śāstra The relation of cause to its effect is recognised in this system also The causes are threefold, immediate or direct, mediate or indirect and instrumental

Number of soul

The soul is different in each person and separate from the body and senses

Syllogism.

The special feature of this system is its syllogism consisting of five parts—proposition (*Pratijñā*), reason (*Hetu*), instance (*Dṛṣṭānta*), application of the reason (*Upanaya*), and conclusion (*Nigamana*).

The Nyāya Sūtras and its division

There are three classes of books on this philosophy. These are (1) Bhāṣya, (2) Vārttika, and (3) Tikā.

Pakṣiḥ Svāmī or Vātsāyana wrote a commentary on it named *Nyāya Bhāṣya*, otherwise known as *Vātsāyana Bhāṣya* The *Nyāya Vārttika Bhāṣya*, a commentary, was written by Udyotakara Ācārya. Vācaspati Miśra’s comment on the system is *Nyāya*

Vārttika-Tātparya-Tīkā Udayanācārya's commentary on Vacaspati's work goes by the name of Nyāya Vārttika-Tātparya-Parisuddhi. Besides we have Tarka Bhāṣā of Kesava Mīśra, Tarka Bhāṣā Śrāvaka, the commentary on the above, by Govardhan Mīśra, Bhāvastha Dīpikā by Gaurī kānta, Tarkabhāṣāśāra Mañjarī by Mādhava Deva, author of Nyāyasāra, Nyāya Samgraha by Rāmbhāga Kṛtī, Kusumāñjali by Nārāyaṇa usthā, Nyāya Samksepā by Govinda Bhattācārya, Bhāṣā Pariccheda with its commentary, Siddhānta Muktaṭvalī by Viśvanāth Pañcānana, Cintamanī by Gaṇeśa Upādhyāya &c on this system *

Commentaries etc of the Nyāya Sūtra

* Dr Ballantine has published a translation of the first four books of the Nyāya Sūtra. He has translated also Tarka Samgraha. Dr Gough has published Bhāṣā Pariccheda with its commentary and an English translation as well. Kāśinātha Tarka Pañcānan has written a Bengali commentary on it. Rāi Rajendranāth Sāstri Bāhādur has translated Siddhānta Muktaṭvalī into Bengali.

VAIS'ESIKA SYSTEM

Kaṇāda's Vaiśeṣika system seems to be a supplement to Gautam's Logic. This System is otherwise known as *Oulūkyā Darśana*. The designation of the system is after Viśeṣa, acknowledged by its author.

Kaṇāda and
his atomic
theory

Kaṇāda's system is atomic theory. According to him all material things are the aggregate of atoms and atoms are eternal. The atoms are of four different kinds corresponding to four different elements, viz, earth, water, fire and air. Ākāśa being eternal, it has no corresponding atom. The cosmic universe has come out of the conjunction of atoms. The disjunction of these atoms will lead to its dissolution. The operation of some mystical agency creates a commotion in aerial atoms, this process joins one atom to another and forms molecules and gradually a massive form. The other elements too grow in this way and thus appears the material world before our sight.

Subject
matter and
division of
the book

It has ten chapters each containing two sections called āhnikas. The first chapter deals with matters and their inter relations, the second with time and space, the third with Ātmā and internal organs, the fourth with body, the fifth with actions, the sixth with

Vedic rites, the seventh with guṇas and sama-bāya, the eighth with evidences, the ninth with intellect and viśeṣa and the tenth with inferences of various kinds. The number of aphorisms is altogether a hundred.

The Vaiśeṣikas maintain that Divine Reason can not be the cause of the material world, for that being the case intelligence would have been one of its inherent properties.

Divine reason is not the cause of the world.

The Vaiśeṣikas like Naiyāyikas recognise Ātmā or soul to be eternal and say that salvation consists in the severance of the soul from its connection with the attributes. The attainment of this depends on the acquisition of true knowledge with regard to six categories. These are (1) Substance (द्रव्य) (2) Quality (गुण) (3) Action (कर्म्म) (4) Generality (सामान्य) (5) Particularity (विशेष) (6) and Coherence (समवाय). Some acknowledge another category also and it is non-existence (अभाव).

Six categories.

This system deals with matter and force and so has more of physics in it than of real philosophy. According to Kaṇād matter is eternal and distinct from soul, other things are in common with the Nyāya system.

Matter and force.

It is said that Rāvaṇa wrote a *Bhāṣya* on it but it is not now available. The Vaiśeṣika

Work and
Comments
on the
system

Sūtras of Kanāda have been commented on by Prasastapāda in the Prasastapāda Bhāṣya or Dravya Bhāṣya Mahāmahopādhyaya Candra Kānta Tarkālankar has also commented on it Vyomaśivācārya perhaps occupies the next place, with regard to this *Darśana*, after Prasastapāda His comment is known as "Vyomavati" Rajsekharā in his commentary Nyāvakandali and Ballabhācārya in his Nyāyalīlāvalī have reference to it

Glosses and
other works
on the system

There are three glosses on the work, one is the Kīranāvalī by Udayana Ācārya and the other two are anonymous Kīranāvalī Prakāśa of Vardhamān is a comment on Kīranāvalī There is a *Tīkā* of Paksadhar Mīśra on it Besides there is a comment of Padmanābha Mīśra on it called *Kīranāvalī Bhāṣkar* Nyāya Kandali of Śrīdhara, a Bengali, was written in 991 A D Sapta Padārthī of Śivāditya deserves mention here Śankara Mīśra's Upaskār, a book on Vaiśeṣika Darśan and his two other works Kāṇḍa Rahasyam and Vādivinode are two important books, on the system The famous Raghunāth Śrīromāṇī of Navadvīp wrote a work on the system called Padārtha Khaṇḍana

Rāmcandra Sārvabhoum has Padārtha Khaṇḍana-Vivecana Prakāśa, a comment on Padārtha Khaṇḍana and Kīranāvalī Rahasya

Mathurānath has bhāsyas on Kiranāvali Prakāś and Nyāyal lāvali. Hari Rām Tarkavāgīśa has commented on Sapta Padārthi of Śivāditya. Jagadīśa Tarkālankāra wrote a tikā, Sūkti by name on Prasastapāda Bhāṣya*.

Some other
works on
the system

* For a general idea of the system read Dr Gough's translation on the System published in the Pundit and Maxmüller's papers on Indian Logic in Arch Bishop Thomson's Laws of thought.

PŪRVAMĪMĀMSĀ

Mīmāṃsā Jaimini establishes in his system that salvation is secured by performing vedic sacrifices and rituals. The various slaughters of animals are not heinous crimes at all, on the other hand, they make smooth the path to salvation. Jaimini bases his doctrines upon the rituals and ceremonials of the Vedas, which are known as *Kalpa* and maintains that the due performance of these things is essential for salvation. The other division of the Veda is known as *rahasya* and is dealt with in the U t ara Mīmāṃsā of Vyāsa.

Division of the book This system has 2652 Sūtras divided into 12 books, each of which is again subdivided into four chapters excepting the 3rd, 6th and 10th, which contain twice as many chapters as the other books do.

Subject matter The first chapter deals with the authority of the Vedas comprising *Ārthavāda*, *Mantira* and *Smṛti*. The second treats of the varieties of actions, their introduction, evidence, negation, and application. In the third chapter we get how a Yajamāna would think of subsidiary rites conducive to the principal one. The fourth discusses the primary and subordinate necessities of *Jñānu* etc. Besides it has discussion regarding the Rājasūya sacrifice with its

limbs and playing on dice etc. The fifth chapter speaks of the superiority and inferiority of *śruti*, *linga* etc. The sixth ascertains who are eligible to perform the sacrifice and discusses about the articles of sacrifice, representative of the yajamāna, necessity of sacrifice, expiation and fire etc. The seventh speaks of *atideśa* regarding *nāma*, *linga* etc., when direct mandate is absent, the eighth has discussions on *atideśa* with regard to the vivid or the obscure *linga* and *apavāda*. The ninth discusses *ūha* with reference to *sām* or *mantra* and things related thereto. In the tenth there is a discussion of the meaning of negation and various other minor things. The eleventh has discussions of *tantra*, *tantrāvāpa*, *tantra prapañcana* etc. The twelfth comes to the conclusion of things going before and shows their mutual relations. Besides it has a discourse on *sarvuccaya* and *vikalpa*. In the *Mīmāṃsā Sūtra* there is a remarkable mass of Vedic reference and argumentation in evidence. Jaimini lays down the doctrine that sound is eternal and that the Vedas contain matters which ought to be accepted without any hesitation.

“Salvation” the *Mīmāṃsakas* maintain “does not involve the extinction of the mind, as this in conjunction with the soul, feels beatitude.” According to them souls are many and they reap the fruits of their own actions.

Salvation
and number
of souls

God

They do not admit the existence of gods with various forms, mantras, they say, are the body of the gods

The author
and his Pre-
decessors

This system is based on the Sūtras of Jaimini. He has in his Sūtras quoted the authority of A'treya, Vādarāyana, Lāvukāyana, Atisāyana and others

Time of its
composition

The time of the work seems to precede the Budhistic period as it has no mention of their works. Asvalāyan's Gihya Sūtra and the Mahābhārat have mention of Jaimini, the author of the system. The last mentioned work was composed, as has been conclusively proved by Bhāṇḍerkar and others about 1500 B C, long before the birth of Budha

Works and
Commen-
taries on
the System

These Sūtras have a Vārttika by Bhagavān Upavarṣa and a commentary by S'avara Svāmi Bhatta called S'avarabhāṣya. Besides, we have the Vārttika of Kumārila Bhatta, a commentary, named Vṛhatī by Vimalaruci, Śāstra Dīpikā of Pārtha Sārathi Miśra, Mayūkhamālā of Somanātha, Bhaṭṭa Dīpikā and Mimām-ā Kāustubha of Khaṇḍa Deva. The Mimām-ā Nyāya Viveka of Bhavanātha Miśra and Nyāyāvalī Dīdhitī of Rāghavānanda on the system also deserve mention

We have again a few metrical works on the system, of which the following are important —

(1) Saṅgraha, (2) Sloka Vārttika of Kumārila and (3) Nyāya-mālā Vistāra of Mādhava (Sāyana)

Śavara—Mahāmahopādhyāya Gāṅgānāth Jhā thinks that Śavara flourished about 1st century B C We have the names of Pāṇiniya Śikṣa, Kātyāyan, Patañjali, Āpastamba and Bauddhāyana Dharma Sūtras, Manu, Mahābhārat and even Purāṇas mentioned by him One Savaraswāmī, son of Dīpta Swāmī wrote a tikā on Pāṇinīya Lingānuśāsanam He may be the writer of the Bhāṣya on the Mīmāṃsā Darśan

Śavara and
his school.

Kumārīl Bhatta was born long after Śavara He has refuted the opinion established by Bhaṭṭṛhari in his Vākyapadīya, which is supposed to be composed in the 7th century A D Śankar Vijaya says that Kumārila had an interview with Sāṅkarācārya who flourished in the earlier part of the eighth century A D This Kumārila is known as Bhaṭṭapāda He has written Slokavārttika on 11 of Jaiminīya Mīmāṃsā Darśan and Tantra Varttika on its 12 Besides, he has written Tūptikā on the remaining chapters of the book These two Vārtikas of Kumārila have been written on Bhāṣyaratnākara and an old Vārttik not known to or mentioned by Śavara

Kumārīl
Bhaṭṭa and
his school

Prabhākara—He is popularly known as Guru Prabhākara This Prabhākara it is believed, was a disciple of Kumārila This

Prabhākara
and his
school

view is corroborated by Śarva Siddhānta Samgraha of Śaṅkarācārya. This Śaṅkar according to Gangānāth Jhā is not our famous Āchārya Śaṅkara. He placed Prabhākara before Kumārila Śaṅkaranātha, was a disciple of Prabhākara, and he has refuted the opinion of Kumārila. The Verse* of Prabodhacandrodaya seem to give in chronological order the names of Prabhākara, Kumārila, Śaṅkara and Vāchaspati. It is said that Kumārila some times asked the opinion of Prabhākara, his disciple, in some controversial point and accepted his decision. So he is called Guru or Bhatta Guru. Some say that Śālik Prabhākara's disciple has referred to him as Guru and hence the title. According to Gangānāth Jhā the title is due to the elaborate tīkā of Prabhākara. Prabhākara has written two tīkāś—ब्रह्मसूत्र and लघु on Savara-Bhāṣya.

Māṇḍana
Miśra

Māṇḍana Miśra was at first a student of the Mīmāṃsā school. Being defeated by Śaṅkarācārya, he became a follower of Vedānta and became known as Śūresvaraācārya. He

1. "मीमांसावार्त्तिक भाट्ट भट्टाचार्यकृत हि सत्"
तच्छिष्योऽल्पमेदेन श्वरस्य मताक्षरम् ।
प्रभाकरगुरुश्चक्रे तद्वि प्रभाकरं मतम् ॥
2. नैवाश्रयि गुरो मंत न विदित तौतात्तिक दर्शनम् ।
तत्तज्ज्ञानमहो न शारिकयिरा वाचस्पते का कथा ॥

possibly flourished in the latter part of the eighth century or the earlier part of the ninth century A.D. He composed two books विवेक and मौनानुश्रवण on the Mīmāṃsā philosophy, these are expositions of Bhāṭṭa's school of Philosophy. Pārtha Sārathi Miśra is also a great student of Bhāṭṭa's school and flourished towards the close of the ninth century A.D. His शास्त्रदीपिका, तन्त्रालोक and न्यायप्रकाश are three fine works on the Mīmāṃsā philosophy. Besides, he wrote a comment on śloka Vārttik known as न्यायप्रकाश. Towards the close of the sixteenth century A.D. अण्णयदीपिका composed विविचारायन with its tikā सुखयोजिनी। Gopal Bhāṭṭa and Śaṅkar Bhāṭṭa wrote respectively विविचारायनभूषण and विविचारायनदूषण about the same time. In the middle of the seventeenth century A.D. अपदेव wrote मौनानुश्रवणप्रकाश and लागादि भास्कर, अर्थसंग्रह। विश्वेश्वर भट्ट or popularly called गंगा भट्ट wrote Bhāṭṭa Cintāmaṇi. Besides, भाट्टदीपिका, मौनानुश्रवण कौस्तुभ and भाट्टरत्न of Khanda Dev, काशिका of Sucarit Miśra, मौनानुश्रवण परिभाषा of Kṛṣṇa Dīkṣit भाट्टभाषा of नारायणतथै, पूर्वमौनानुश्रवणकारिका of Ballabhācārya, मौनानुश्रवण पादका of Benkatnāth etc. deserve mention here.

Several other works on the system and their commentaries.

Bhāṭṭanāth :—He was a famous student of the Prabhākara school. In his 'Nyāya Viveka' he has explained clearly the substance of

Bhāṭṭanāth

प्रकरण पञ्चिका by Śāliknāth and his opinion as well

Rāmānuj—Ācārya Rāmānuj also was a student of the Prabhākara school. His तन्त्ररहस्य is a famous exposition of that school. In course of time the school of Prabhākara dwindled into insignificance and the school of Bhaṭṭa occupied a prominent position.

VEDĀNTA

Uttara-mīmāṃsā is a sequel to Pūrva-mīmāṃsā. This is clear from the very opening aphorism “अथातो ब्रह्मजिज्ञासा” while in the Pūrvamīmāṃsā the book begins with अथातो वर्गं जिज्ञासा. This philosophy is popularly known as Vedāntā Darśan. The whole of the ब्रह्मसूत्रs made by Bādarāyaṇa Vyāsa is based entirely upon the Upaniṣads representing the Jñānakāṇḍa of the Vedas. The 555 aphorisms of the Vedānta are divided into 4 lectures or chapters, each containing four pādas or sections. In the first chapter attempts have been made to ascertain the state of Brahma from Vedic texts, direct or indirect. In the second अद्वैतवाद has been established by refuting the fundamental doctrines of other schools of philosophy and especially those of Sāṃkhya. The third chapter deals with creation and adoration of Brahma. And the fourth concludes that Brahma is the real Entity and that perfect peace depends on its clear recognition.

Uttara-
mīmāṃsā—
its subject
matter.

Vyāsa is said to be the propounder of this system. But the greatest champion of this philosophic system is the great Śaṅkara who

Vyāsa and
Śaṅkara

introduced **माया** into the whole body of Vedantic arguments

Discrim of
vedānta

According to this system there is neither creation nor creator. Every thing visible is the Vivarta of Brahma. This is caused by **Māyā** which emanates from Brahma and covers all that we see. This **Māyā** consists of the three **guṇas** and to destroy it is the end of human life. So we see that the Vedantic doctrine is rigidly monistic and dualistic. The individual souls are really part and parcel of this one Brahma as different sparks are of one fire. When the coating of **Māyā** fully wears off individual differences too entirely disappear.

Śankara and
his commen-
tary

Śankara in his well-known commentary on the Vedānta Sūtrās, called the **Śāṅkara Bhāṣyam**, proves this doctrine to a satisfactory conclusion and justifies its arguments by constant references to the Upanisads upon the interpretations whereof he bases his reasonings. Some say that **Māyā** is not a doctrine of the Upanisads but it has been introduced by Śankarā. But it is not true. Śankara's preceptor's preceptor **Gauḍapāda** has fully dealt with this **Māyā** in his **Kārikās** on **Māṇḍūkya** Upaniṣad. Besides, there is sufficient proof in the Vedas themselves that **Māyā** is the agent to create this external world. There are many divisions and sub divisions

amongst the commentators of the Brahma Sūtra We shall give below the substance of the opinion of some of the important schools

(1) Nirbiseśadvaitavāda

Śankarācārya—Śankara is the champion of this school. It is believed by many that he flourished towards the close of the seventh or in the beginning of the eighth century A D * He was born at Kālādi, a village in the province of Keral in Madras He read philosophy and other scriptures with Govinda Pāda, a disciple of Gouda Pāda and finished the course of his studies at the age of sixteen With a view to propagate Hindu religion and philosophy he roamed over the whole of India and defeated many Buddhist Pandits and others who held different views from him To speak the truth, the eternal Brāhmaṇya religion revived through his utmost zeal and endeavour He erected four great Mathas on the four points of India to guard Vedic religion from the hands of those who profess religion contrary to the Vedas. These mathas are known as Śringary, Sārada, Jośi or Jyotih and Govardhana.

Śankara and
his school

Śankarācārya's Sāriraka Bhyāsya has wrought a wonder in the world. Before him

Śankara's
Bhāṣya.

* Wasmüller and Kṛṣṇa Swāmī Ayer place him between 788—820 A D Bāla Gangadhar Tilaka take the time of Śankara to be between 688—720 This view has been accepted by many other scholars

too Brahma Sūtra has been explained by Ācaryas of whom, the name of venerable Upavarṣa has been mentioned by him His view goes by the name of Advaitavāda

Śaṅkara's Bhāṣya has been commented by many a scholar, of these the name of Vācaspati Miśra stands predominant His comment on Śaṅkaraka Bhāṣya is called Bhāmātī It not only explains the Bhāṣya of Śaṅkara but supplies new materials also that fell short in Śaṅkaraka-Bhāṣya

Time of
Vācaspati
miśra.

According to some commentators the commentary derives its name from 'Bhāmātī' the wife of Vācaspati But there is no proof to corroborate it Towards the close of the commentary Vācaspati has written तस्मिन् महर्षे महर्षीयकौर्त्तौ श्रीमन् नृगेकारि मया प्रबन्ध । It is not yet settled who this Nrga was and when he flourished. According to Vindheswari Prosād Dvivedī, he was a king of Chohan family and flourished in the tenth century A. D But the general consensus of opinion is that Vācaspati flourished in 841 A. D In the thirteenth century A. D. Amalānanda Sarasvatī wrote 'Kalpataru' a commentary on Bhāmātī, which was again commented by Appaya Dikṣit in the eighteenth century under the name of Parimal. We have again a tīkā on Śaṅkara Bhāṣya called 'Ratna Prabhā' by Govindānanda.

Various
other com-
mentaries

and another called Bhāṣya Nyāya Nirṇaya by A'nanda Giri Pañca Pādika is an incomplete commentary on Śaṅkara Bhāṣya by Padma Pādācārya Prakasātmā has written a commentary known as Pañca Pādika Vivaraṇa 'Nai-karma Siddhi' of Suresvarācārya is a famous work on the Advaita system

A versical treatise styled Samksep Śārīraka by Sarvajñātmā gives briefly the substance of Śārīraka Bhāṣya Besides, the Khaṇḍana Khaḍa Khāḍya of Sree Harṣa (1190 A D), Pratyaktattva dīpika of Citsukha and पञ्चदशी, जीवन-सुक्ति-विवेक and अनुभूति-प्रकाश of विद्यारण्य-मुनि of the fourteenth century are important works on the system

Some works
on the
system

The Vedānta Paribhāṣā of Dharmarājadhvarindra, Advaita Siddhi of Madhusūdan Sarasvatī, Vedāntasāra of Sadānanda Jogindra, and Vedānta Siddhānta Muktaḥvali of Prakasānanda also deserve mention in this connection

(2) Viśiṣṭādvaita Vāda

Jamunācārya—About two hundred years after the birth of Śaṅkara, Jamunācārya was born at Mādura in 953 A. D. In his famous work 'Siddhi Traya' he has tried to refute the view of Śaṅkara. In his opinion though individual soul is a part and parcel of Absolute Soul still there is a line of demarkation between these two

Rāmāṇja's
predecessor.

Rāmānuja
and his
school

Rāmānuja—He was born in 1016 A. D. in the Deccan. He is the champion of this school. His *Bhāṣya* on the *Brahma Sūtra* is known as *Śrībhāṣya*. He has tried to prove that the individual soul, the world and God, though separate entities, yet the former two constitute the body of the last. According to him the individual soul is *Anu* while, God is *Bībhu*. Individual souls are part and parcel of God, the receptacle of all.

Rāmānuja's
view

He has explained the Philosophy in the light of devotion and himself sticks to the views of *Pañcarātra*. For the purpose of elucidating his views he has written *Vedārtha Samgraha*, *Vedānta Pradīpa* and *Gadyatraya*. The work *Vedāntatattvasāra* is also attributed to him. Of the *Ācāryas* who supported this view, *Rāmānuja* has mentioned the names of *Vodhāyana*, *Dropur*, *Guhadev*, *Kapardḍi* and others.

Commen-
taries on
the system;

Śrutaprakāśika, a Commentary on *Rāmānuja's Śrībhāṣya* by *Sudarṣan* is a good work. *Veṅkatanātha's Śatadūsanī* and *Tattva Tīkā* on *Śrībhāṣya* are important works on the system. *Tattva Sāra* of *Varadācārya* and *Tattva Muktvāvali* of *Purnānanda Kavi Cakravorti* also deserve mention here. *Appaya Dīkṣit* (1552-1624 A. D.) also wrote a commentary on *Veṅkata's* work.

Śrikantha—Śrikanth acknowledges the tattvas—Isvara, Jīva and Jagat. He flourished after Saṅkara and before Bhojarāja. He wrote a bhāṣya on the Brahma Sūtra, which was commented by Appayya Dīkṣit under the name Śivārka Manidīpikā.

Śrikantha
and his
school

(4) *Bhedaśvedā Vāda*

or

Dualism-Monism

Bhāskārācārya—He was the champion of this school, though Oudulomi long before him accepted this doctrine. The latter acknowledges duality when Jīvas are under bondage, but monism when he severs it. Vāskārācārya was prior to Vācaspati Miśra and Udayanācārya and flourished in the beginning of the 9th century A.D. He received the title of Vidyāpati from Mihir, the king of Bhoja. According to Vardhamāna, Vāskara, the astronomer was sixth in descent from this Vāskara.

Bhāskara and
his school.

Nimbārka, though a follower of the above school, differs materially from Vāskara. According to him there is distinction and sameness between Jīva and Brahma irrespective of the state of bondage or freedom. His bhāṣya on the Brahma Sūtra is known as Vedānta

Nimbārka.

Vallabhā-
cārya.

Pārijāta Saurabha He quotes in it the views of Sanatkumar and Nārada in support of his views Śrīnivāsa wrote a tikā on it called Vedānta Kaustubha This again has been commented on by Keśava Bhatta of Kāśmīra

Vallabhācārya—He was born in 1479 A.D. Like Rāmānuja and Madhvācārya he follows the path of Vaiṣṇavism and takes Jīva as a part of Brahma, as spark is of fire His bhāṣya on Brahma Sūtra is called *Ānu* Bala-deva Vidyābhūṣaṇ's Govinda bhāṣya is also of the similar nature

(5) *Dualism*

Vnanda-
tīrtha

Ānandatīrtha was the founder of this view. He is popularly known as Pūrṇaprajña and his philosophy as Pūrṇaprajña Darśan He was born in 1197 A.D. and died in 1276 A.D. His bhāṣya on Brahma Sūtra is called Tattva Viveka He wrote besides *Anuvyākhyān* in verses to elucidate the meaning of Brahma Sūtra. Trivikram, one of his disciples wrote a tikā on Tattva Viveka called Tattva Dīpikā, while Padmanābha his another disciple wrote a tikā, Sannyāsa Ratnāvalī, on Anuvyākhyān

THE CĀRVĀKA SYSTEM.

The Cārvākas acknowledge *Pratyakṣa* to be the only source of true knowledge. According to them earth, water, fire and air are the four elements and *self* is nothing but the body endowed with consciousness. The above-mentioned elements combined in a certain way give rise to the body. Consciousness springs from this combination. This being a product of structural combination, it vanishes along with the dissolution of the body. They do not recognise life after death. Hopes of reward and threats of punishment are but empty words invented by deceitful priesthood. The king on earth is the man to punish and reward and we are to take into account the pleasures and pains we undergo in this life. They may be called Hedonists in the language of Ethics. But as matter of true materialism, extreme Hedonism and Atheism have been blended in this curious system.

Essence of
the System

An independent treatise on the *Cārvāka Philosophy* is now hardly available. This system has been stated briefly in the *Mahābhārata*, *Matsya Purāṇa* &c. *Sāyaṇa* Madhava has given a summary of it in his *Sarvadarśana Samgraha*. The readers are also referred to the *Śaṅkara Bhāṣya*, *Bhāmati*, and *Muir Journal Royal Asiatic Society* Vol XII.

Works
on the
Cārvāka
system

THE JAINA PHILOSOPHY.

The Jaina system This system is a very ancient one and it would not be improper to say that Buddhism was its offspring.

Jinas The Jainas defy the authority of the Vedas and reject the Vedic rites. They do not believe in the existence of a creator but acknowledge the existence of soul which can be liberated. Arhats or Jinas are those whose soul have been liberated. These Jinas are twenty four in number.

Categories- They recognise two chief categories, namely (i) *Jiva* and (ii) *Ajiva*. The one is the object of fruition (*Bhogyā*) and the other is the enjoyer (*Bhoktā*)*. *Mokṣa* or salvation consists in liberating the *Soul* from the fetters of work.

Evidence. The Jainas acknowledge only two means of proof—*perception* and *inference*.

Nature of soul Pleasure or pain cannot constitute the nature of *ātma*.

Kinds of men Human beings are of three kinds—The perfected beings, the beings in bondage and the sufferers in hell. Bodies with organs are made up of ultimate atoms called *pudgalas*.

* For the subdivisions of these and the principles of the system, see the original philosophy.

The *Yogins* do not cause pain to the living world They are naked and free from stains They carry the feathers of peacocks in their hands, eat out of their hands, *have their hair cut* and are engaged in silent meditation

Jaina
ascetics

Of the books on the system now available, the *A'ptaniścayālamkāra* of A'rhatcandra Suri, the *Vitarāga Stuti*, *Sādvāda Māñjari*, &c are important

Works

*The Bauddha Philosophy**

There are four different schools of this system—Mādhyamika, Yogācarā, Sautrāntika and Vaibhāṣika Though they differ in several important particulars, there are some points in which they all agree These are —

Four differ-
ent schools
of the
system

(a) They recognise two kinds of evidence—perception and inference as the source of true knowledge

Evidence

(b) "The world" say the Buddhists, "is full of miseries"

Nature of
the world

(c) To remove these miseries one has to go to the root of the evil These are due to *avidyā* and to eradicate this, one should try to know the real nature of the world For this purpose the Buddhists prescribe four kinds of meditation called *Bhavana*—(1) Every thing is momentary, (2) The world is full of miseries,

Means of
extirpating
worldly
sorrow

* To have a grasp of the system see Wilson's Essays, Vol. 1. Stephenson's Kalpa Sutra, Weber's Śāstrunājaya Māhātmya and Cowel's Sarva Darśana Samgraha

- (3) There are no two like things in the world,
 (4) Every thing is empty or unreal These
 being properly pursued the world ceases to
 produce its baneful effects upon man

The Mādhyamikas

Mādhy-
mika
School

The *intellect* is nothing but *consciousness* itself According to the Mādhyamikas this consciousness too does not exist in reality "The ultimate principle" says this school, "is not existent, nor nonexistent, nor existent and-non-existent, nor different from both" So the ultimate principle is outside the scope of the above four alternatives There are no such things as constitute generic and specific configurations of characteristics This school, to say in brief, discusses the ultimate principle of *nothingness*

Yogācāras

Yogācāra
School

The Yogācāras maintain that consciousness exists quite independently of the external objects and thus refutes the theory of *nothingness*. The nature of consciousness is indivisible There is only one thing in reality—the self-luminous consciousness In spite of its varied manifestations the oneness is not destroyed. For instance, the body of a pretty young woman is viewed by a religious ascetic, an amorous man and a dog in three different ways. Consciousness, though fleeting and momentary, is yet differentiated in three ways by deluded persons

Sautrāntikas

According to this system there exist both the external and the internal worlds, for there can be no knowledge excepting the object of knowledge and that it is not directly perceived but inferred from certain states of consciousness. There are only five organs of sense and never six, to perceive *colour*, &c. The Sautrāntikas declare that the element *ākāśa* is the ultimate atom having a motion only and nothing else. Everything is momentary in point of existence and is the result of the manifestation of consciousness.

Sautrān-
tika
School.

Vāibhāsikas

The Vāibhāsikas like the Sautrāntikas acknowledge the existence of the external world. The external world is nothing but the aggregate of thousands of ultimate atoms and it is directly perceived.

Vāibhā-
sika
School

Those that take their stand on *buddhi* are called Buddhas. The function of this is of two kinds—*cognitional* and *non cognitional*. The correct apprehension of truth is dependent on the cognitional consciousness. The other, *i.e.*, the non-cognitional consciousness in the shape of *skandha*, *āyatana* and *dhātus* springs from *avidyā*. The whole collection of the extended objects is the body constituting the world, there are five *skandhas*, twelve *āyatanas* and eighteen *dhātus*.

Explanation
of the term
buddha

Skandhas

Skandha means a group. The five Skandhas are—Jñāna, Saṃskāra, Saṃjñā, Vedanā and Rūpa. The Vijñānaskandha is only a series of jñānas. The aggregate of the innate impressions of merits and demerits is known as *Samskāra skandha*. The Vedanā Skandha is what constitutes pleasure and pain, &c, and the desire as well. The *Samjñi skandha* is but the appellation of things and the *Rūpa skandha* is the collection of embodied things.*

The Buddhists do not acknowledge existence of God. The views of the four schools stated above may be compared with those of (1) Hume, (2) Berkeley or Mill, (3) Brown, and (4) Hamilton respectively.

THE ŚAIVA AND PĀSUPĀTA DOCTRINES

Śaiva and
Pāsupata
systems

According to these systems God is the efficient cause of this universe. *God* and *jīva* are different from one another. The former is omniscient and omnipotent, while the latter is ignorant and weak. The practice of *yoga* as instructed by God acquires power and extinguishes pain.

* For the account of āyatanas and dhatus see the original philosophy.

Exercise

1. State what you know as to the sources of our knowledge of the Samkhya system. Give a brief account of the main Samkhya tenets (1909 P)

- 2 Give a concise account of the doctrine taught in the two Mīmāṃsās (Hon 1912)
- 3 Give the cardinal doctrines of Hindu Philosophy and give an account of the Sāṃkhya System (1918 pass)
- 4 Give an account of the Nirukta (1919 Hons)
- 5 Write what you know of the Dharma Sūtras and their contents (1920 Hons.)
- 6 Give a brief account of the six systems of Hindu Philosophy 1921 Pass)
- 7 What are the main doctrines of the Sāṃkhya System of Philosophy? Name the important works dealing with this philosophy (1921 Hons)
- 8 Describe briefly the influence of the Sāṃkhya System on the religious and philosophic life of India. (1922 p) 1924 p
- 9 Write what you know about the materialistic school of the Cārvākas (1924 p)
- 10 Give an account of the principal Śrauta, Gṛhya and Dharma Sūtras and the light they throw on the domestic and social life in ancient India (1924 Hons)
- 11 Discuss the sources of our knowledge of the Sāṃkhya System and give a brief account of its principal tenets and its influence on other systems (1924 Hons)
- 12 Write an essay on the doctrines taught in the two Mīmāṃsās (1925 Hons.)
- 13 Give an account of any one system of Indian Philosophy, noting clearly its central doctrines (1926 Hon)
- 14 What are the grounds for supposing that Yoga doctrine is very old? (1927 Hons.)

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15 Give a short account of the Yoga system of Hindu Philosophy (1928 p]

16 Give a a brief outline of the peilosophy of the Lokayata Scool (1928 Hons)

17 Discuss the meaning of the word Tantra and the types into which it may be classified ? (1934 Hons)

18 Write short notes on the six Vedangas

19. Give a short history of the Upavedas

20 Give a short description of the soma sacrifices

21 What do you know of Charaka and Susruta

THE EPICS (2000—300 B. C)

Epic poetry, as distinguished from lyrical, is characterised by the fact that it confines itself more to external action than to internal feelings. As the nation grows up in ideas and civilisation and naturally begins to reason and to speculate, its mind turns inward, putting a stop to the spontaneous outburst of epic, the natural expression of national life. Other kinds of refined poetry more artificial and of laborious style step in.

Epic poetry

The epic poems flourished side by side with some later vedic works, such as by the Brāhmans and the Sūtras, when vedic traditions were still fresh in the memory of people. The beginning of epic poetry may be traced to the vedic songs. So epic poetry must have been composed in the pre-Buddhistic era, at a period not later than 2000 B. C.

origin of epic poetry.

The post-Vedic literature differs from the Vedic broadly in the following four points

(1) *Subject-matter*—Vedic literature is essentially religious, while Sanskrit literature is mainly secular. The religion itself has gone under modification. The vedic gods have sunk to a subordinate position, and Brahmā, Viṣṇu

Subject matter contrasted with vedic literature

and Siva, forming the Hindu Trinity, have become the chief objects of worship. Besides, many minor gods, such as, Kuvera, Ganesa, Kārtikeya etc have been introduced

Spirit con-
trasted with
the vedic
literature

(2) *Spirit*—The early Vedic literature is optimistic, while the Sanskrit literature beginning with the Upaniads is almost always pessimistic. The Vedic Rsis were bo'd and frank and they had not the least doubt in their mind regarding the beneficial character of gods and the cheerfulness they would attain in the life to come. In short, they took a cheerful view of life. But in the classical period people began to take a gloomy view of life. They considered their very existence to be full of evils and deliverance from the series of rebirth and interminable misery was thought to be *summumbonum* of life. Pessimism is erroneously ascribed to the influence of the doctrine of transmigration which is a universal tenet of all Indian religions and philosophical systems up to the present time. It is seen even now that the Visnuite sects are, more or less, optimistic.

want of es-
sence in the
epic

(3) *Want of essence and harmony*—The post-vedic literature is also marked by a tendency to exaggeration and excessive diffuseness of style. The defective sense of proportion is best illustrated by the huge bulk of the

Mahābhārat which contains about 200,000 lines

(4) *The form*—Metrical form prevailed in earlier Vedic literature which was subsequently superseded by prose during the Brāhmana and Aupaniśadic age. The earliest Sanskrit works, save and except grammatical and philosophical treatises and a few collections of fables and romances, were written in metrical forms. The difference in form, between Vedic and Sanskrit literature, is the difference in vocabulary and grammatical forms. Besides, there is difference of style also. The style of Vedic literature is simple, whereas that of classical Sanskrit is highly artificial, owing to the frequent use of long compounds and application of elaborate rules of rhetoric.

Form contrasted with the Vedic literature.

CLASSES OF EPICS

There are mainly two classes of epic poetry—the one comprises the old stories that go by the name of Itihāsa, Ākhyāna and Purāṇa and the other falls under the province of Kāvya or artificial epic. The Mahābhārata is the representative of the former group, while the Rāmāyaṇa is that of the latter.

Classes of Epics

THE MAHĀBHĀRATAM

The Mahābhārata which has come down to us in its present form contains over 100,000 slokas. It is divided into 18 books called parvas with Harivamśa, the 19th which is consi-

The Mahābhārata.

dered to be its *Khila* or complement All these 18 books excepting the 8th and the last three are divided into subsections or *Anu-parvans* Each book again is divided into chapters or *Adhyāyas* The 12th book is the longest with about 14000 ślokas and the seventeenth is the shortest with only 123 ślokas * It is the longest poem known to literary history and the source of all the Purānas

Name of the Parvas
The Parvas are the Ādi, Sabthā, Vana, Virāta, Udyoga, Bhīṣma, Drona, Karna, Śalya, Sauptika, Strī, Śānti, Anusāsana, Asvamedha, Āśramavāsika, Mausala Mahāprasthānika and Svargārohana

The first Parva
The first describes the origin of the sages and royal dynasties connected with the subject matter Besides this describes the birth of the Pāndavas, Yudhiṣṭhira's coronation, burning of the house of lac, birth of Ghatokaca, marriage of Draupadī, banishment of Arjuna, stealing of Subhadra, burning of khāṇḍava forest etc

The Second Parva
The second describes the Rājāsūya Sacrifice of Yudhiṣṭhira.

The third Parva
The third describes the fight of Arjuna with Mahādeva disguised as a kirāta and his acquisition of *paśupata* and other weapons etc, defeat of Citraratha by Arjuna to rescue Durjodhana and his family from the former's hands etc

* The Vangavāsī edition has only 110 ślokas The Parvādhyāya parva speaks of 123 ślokas in it.

The fourth narrates how the Pāṇḍavas lived in the house of Virāta, how Kīcaka was killed by Bhīma and the cows of Virāta were rescued from Duryodhana and his party by Arjuna. It further describes the marriage of Uttarā with Abhimanyu, son of Arjuna.

The fourth
Parva

The fifth narrates the preparation for the great war, the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth describe war under the leadership of Bhīma, Drona, Kāma and Śalya respectively.

Parvas
5th to 9th

The tenth describes how Asvathāmā killed the five sons of the five Pāṇḍavas and presented their heads to Duryodhana who seeing those breathed his last. The eleventh depicts the wailing of Dhṛtarāṣṭra and Gāndhārī and others, the breaking of the iron image of Bhīma to pieces by Dhṛtarāṣṭra etc. and śrādh ceremony of those who died in the great war.

The tenth
and the eleventh
Parvas

The twelfth deals with various topics specially with *Dharma* and *Mokṣa*. The thirteenth also is of similar nature and speaks of the division of wealth, hybrid castes, spiritualism and various tales to illustrate those with reference to men, beasts and birds.

The twelfth
and the thirteenth
Parvas

The fourteenth also has description of various tales and the Aśvamedha sacrifice of Yudhiṣṭhira. The fifteenth describes penetration of Dhṛtarāṣṭra with Gāndhārī into forest and the arrival of Nārada.

The fourteenth and the fifteenth
Parvas.

Parvas 16th
to 18th

The sixteenth describes how an iron club was produced and the Yādavas were killed fighting with one another. The next chapter narrates the final journey of the Pāṇḍavas and the last the reaching of heaven by Yudhiṣṭhira.

Source of the
Mahābhārata.

The old disconnected battle songs about the ancient Kuru and Pāñchāla heroes were undoubtedly the historical background for the original kernel of the epic. These, at a later time, were worked up by Vyāsa into an epic narrating the fate of the Kauravas, on the one hand and that of the Pāṇḍavas on the other. The Kurus and the Pāñchālas were finally coalesced into a single people. In the Yajurveda they appear to be united and in the Kāthaka saṃhitā Dhṛtarāstra is mentioned to be a well-known person. The present form of the Mahābhārata contained some matters which do not belong to the original. These are the verses said by *Sauti*. The portion recited by Vaiṣampāyana, a disciple of Vyāsa, in the *Snake sacrifice* of Janamejaya is the real Mahābhārata.

Three
stages of
the book

"It is seen in the book I" say some scholars (both Eastern and Western) "that the poem originally consisted of 24,000 ślokas. The episodes were added afterwards." "It is also seen" say they "that the epic had once 8,800 ślokas and three distinct beginnings." The

* मन्त्रादि भारुः केचिदासीकादि तथा परे
तथोपरिचरादन्व विप्राः सम्यगधीयते ॥ १।१।५९

above facts made them jump to the conclusion that the epic had undergone three stages of development before it assumed its present form. Besides, they are of opinion that it was written by different hands at different times. There are scholars again who think that it was Vyāsa who composed the epic but in his life time he revised the work four times and made necessary additions and alterations. These they hold as a ground for disagreement regarding the number of verses and the Parvans as said by Sauti in the chapter called the Parva Samgraha chapter.

The book is not a work of one man—its refutation.

The old disconnected battle songs, as said before, about the ancient Kuru and Pāñcāla heroes were undoubtedly worked up by some poetic genius into an epic narrating the fate of the Kauravas on the one hand and that of the Pāṇḍavas on the other by about 24000 verses. Brahmā was regarded as the highest deity in this period and this must have therefore preceded the Buddha era. It is the first stage.

The first stage

Handed down by rhapsodists, the body of the epic in the second stage got unusually swelled up. The extension of the original epic must have taken place after 300 B. C. and by the beginning of the Christian era. That the sectarian division was already well established is corroborated by Megasthenes' account wherein mention is made of Hindu temples and

The second stage.

Buddhistic mounds It is also corroborated by the reference to the Yavanas and Pahlavas along with Śakas and Parthians Besides, Brahmā, Śiva and Viṣṇu also became prominent deities of this period Kṛṣṇā appears here as an incarnation of Viṣṇu

The third
stage

Many didactic matters were introduced into it in the third stage by the Brāhmaṇas and thus it assumed the character of a vast treatise on duty Its divine origin and the eternity of the caste system were also laid down Its origin is attributed to Vyāsa implying a belief in its final redaction

Sauti's account of the
Mahābhā-
rata

We cannot agree fully with these statements It would be safe to rely on what has been said by Sauti in the Anukramaṇikā Parvādhyāya He has given there a full account of the Mahābhārata nicely, though very briefly Let us examine the following slokas uttered by him

अष्टौ श्लोकसहस्राणि अष्टौ श्लोकशतानि च ।
अहं वेत्ति शुक्रो वेत्ति सञ्जयो वेत्ति वा नवा ॥
तत् श्लोककूटमद्यापि ग्रथितं सुदृढं मुने ।
भक्तुं न शक्यतेऽर्थस्य गुदत्वात् प्रश्रितस्य च ॥
सर्वं श्लोऽपि गणेशो यत् क्षणमास्ते विचारयन् ।
तावच्चकार व्यासीऽपि श्लोकानन्यान् बहूनि ॥ १।१।८१—८३
विस्तारं कुरुवशस्य गान्धार्या धर्मशौलताम् ॥
अनु प्रज्ञा धृतिं कुन्त्या सम्यग् वै पायनोऽब्रवीत् ।
वासुदेवस्य माहात्म्यं पाण्डवानाञ्च सत्यताम् ॥
दुर्बलं च धार्तराष्ट्रानामुक्तवान् भगवानृषि ।
इदं श्लोकसहस्रान्तु लोकानां पुण्यकर्मणाम् ॥

उपाख्यानं सहस्रयनाद्य भारतमुत्तमम् ।
 चतुर्विंशतिसाहस्रीं चक्रे भारतमहिताम् ॥
 उपाख्यानं विना तावत् मारुत प्रोच्यते दुर्धम् । ११।१८—१८२
 अनुक्रमणिकाध्याय इत्तान्ताना सपर्वणाम् ॥
 षष्टि शतसहस्राणि चकारान्या स संहिताम् ।
 त्रिंशच्छतसहस्रञ्च देवलीके प्रतिष्ठितम् ॥
 पित्रे पञ्चदश ग्रीक्ता गन्धर्वेषु चतुर्दश ।
 एक शतसहस्रन्तु मानुषेषु प्रतिष्ठितम् ॥ ११।१८५—६ ।

A close examination of the above verses would show that Sauti gives a brief history of the great Mahābhārata in the Anukramanikā Chapters. It is found here that the great Mahābhārata once contained 60,00,000 slokas. Of these 30,00,000 are current among gods, 15,00,000 among *manes*, 14,00,000 among Gandhavas and 100,000 among men. This, as is in vogue among Sanskrit writers[†], gives a divine origin to the great epic. The only real thing we get here is that our epic contains 100,000 slokas and that it is called the Great Bhārata with legends. Besides, we get that the portion, excluding legends, is called Bhārata or Bhārata Samhitā and contains 24000 slokas. Regarding the number 8,800 it is clearly stated that the book contains the above number among many other verses amounting to one hundred thousand and were called Kūtas (or Vyāsa kūtas).

What can
 be gathered
 from the
 verses cited
 by Sauti

[†] See the opening verses of the Nārada Samhitā and the Sukra Nītisūtra etc.

because of their mysterious meaning and known only to Vyāsa, the author and his son, Suka. It was doubtful if these were known to Sañjaya or not. This is said in connection with the legend of Gaṇeśa's becoming the writer of the book.

Three begin-
nings of the
Mahābhārata

So, no doubt is left as regards its containing 8,800 verses but they constitute its body. The only thing that remains now to discuss is its three beginnings. The śloka *Manvādī* or *Mantrādī* does not speak of the three beginnings but only the mode that was followed in the study of the book. Some schools began from the syllable 'OM', some from the tale of Āstika, while others from the Vasu Uparicara. Thus summing up the above we find that our Mahābhārata from the time of its author had a lac of slokas, that its 8800 slokas being very difficult are known as *Kṛtās* and that the nucleus of the book contains 24000 slokas. Thus the theory that the Mahābhārata passed through the three different stages before it assumed its present stage falls to the ground. There is a class of scholars who agree with those scholars, referred to here-to-fore as to the different stages of the book with this exception only, as said before, that the epic underwent four different stages instead of three and that the book is not a compilation of matters composed by different

poets at different times but it had been revised and altered four times by Vyāsa himself during his lifetime. In their opinion the book contained only 4 verses in its original form and then developed, stage by stage, containing 8,800, 24,000 and 100,000 in order. Regarding the first stage of the book they base their argument on a verse of the Svargārohan Parva.* The slokas, as my knowledge goes, do not speak of the book consisting of 4 verses but they only state that after the composition of the book, the great sage Vyāsa gave the gist of book to his son Śuka in four verses. Other points raised by them have already been discussed and refuted.

The four different stages of the book—these are only different editions with additions and alterations made by the poet himself.

As regards the disagreement of the verses and chapters as said by Sauti, it would suffice to say that Sauti did not mean exactly a lac of slokas by saying that the work consisted of a hundred thousand slokas, but by it he only meant a round number that was more or less, equal to a hundred thousand. The Mahābhārata, as we get it now, contains about 84,000 slokas excluding Harivamsa which according to Sauti contained 12,000 slokas and was thought as a part of the Mahābhārta. So practically the book consists of about a lac of slokas in round number. Besides the present Harivamsa has about

An explanation of the disagreement of verses with what Sauti had said.

* महर्षिर्भयवान् व्यास कृत्वा च संहिता पुरा ।

श्लोकैश्चतुर्भिर्धन्वात्मा पुत्रसम्भाषयत् शुक्रम् ॥ १८।५।६०

16000 slokas This being added to the number of slokas found in the original now gives exactly a lac of slokas The book passed through manuscripts for more than four thousand years and therefore it is not a matter of great wonder that the copyists carried matter of the previous chapters to the subsequent ones and vice-versa It is mentioned in the Ādi-parva (52 ch) that the sage took full three years to compose these verses It is not at all impossible therefore that an intellectual giant like Vyāsa would compose about 300 slokas a day *

Many poets
has derived
the subject
matter of
their books
from this

The poet's prophecy regarding his work (192) has come to be true to the letter † Poet like Bhāravi, Māgha, Rājasekhara and others have taken the burden of their poems from this Mahābhārata Ksemendra Vyāsa Dasa made a poetical abstract of the book known as Bharata-manjarī in the 11th century, which is the oldest book of its kind There are many dramas such as, *Venī sambhāra*, *Urubhanga* etc which have their subject matters taken from it

Kumārila
and Śaṅkara

DATE OF THE MAHĀBHĀRATA

Kumārila who flourished in the first half of the 8th century A D mentions the Mahābhārata in his Tantra Vārttika The great Vedāntist philosopher Sankara who wrote his commentary

* Shelly says that he could write 4 to 5 hundred verses at a stress

† सर्वेषां कविमुख्यानामुपजीव्य भविष्यति ।
पञ्चम्य इव भूतानां अक्षयो भारतद्रुमः ।

on the *Brahma Sūtra* in 700 A. D. refers to the *Mahābhārta* as a *Smṛti*

The famous Sanskrit authors *Vāna*, *Subandhu*, and others took the burden of their works from the great epic and were acquainted even with the *Harivaṃsa* which is considered to be its complement. These emphasise the theory that the poet flourished about sixth or seventh century A. D.

*Vāna Su-
bandhu and
others*

Several land giants, dated between 480 and 500 A. D., quote the *Mahābhārata* as an authority teaching the rewards of the pious donors and the punishment of impious despoilers. These show that the *Mahābhārata* attained its present character before the middle of the 5th century.

Land giants

There are references to Hindu temples and Buddhistic mounds in the epic. The latter proves its priority to the growth of Buddhism.

Temples etc

The *Yavanas*, *Pahlavas* and *Śakas*, who were brought into India by Alexander's conquest in 327 B. C., are mentioned as the allies of the *Kurus*.

Yavanas etc.

We have seen already that *Viṣṇu* and *Śiva* became prominent deities during the so called second stage of the epic. We learn from the account of *Megasthenes* that this was the case at about 300 B. C. The above facts go to show that the second stage of development of the epic had taken place before the 4th century B. C.

*Megasthenes'
account*

Āśvalāyeya
Gṛhya
Sūtra,

The Mahābhārata as found in the first stage perhaps came into existence about the 5th century B C The mention of the Mahābhārata in Āśvalāyana's Gṛhya Sūtra, composed about 5th century B C, confirms the above suggestion

The germ
of the Epic

It is most probable that the original kernel of the epic traces its origin to the ancient conflict between the Kurus and the Pāncālas Hence the historical germ of the great epic cannot be later than the 10th century B C as it is found in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa According to many oriental scholars the book was composed about 1500 B C But the orthodox view is that the book was composed by Vyāsa at the juncture of Dvāpara and Kali which corresponds to about 3000 B C

Comments
there

The best commentator of the Mahābhārata is Nīlakaṇṭha of Mahārāṣṭra. Older than Nīlakantha is one Arjunamīśra The earliest extant commentator of the great epic is Sūrya Nārāyaṇa It is now being commented by M M Haridāsa Siddhānta Vāgiśa

Story of the
Mahābhā-
rata

The epic kernel of the Mahābhārata describes the fight between the Kauravas and the Pāṇḍavas lasting for eighteen days Dhṛtarāṣṭra and Pāṇḍu were two brothers The former was born blind and so was excluded from the throne in favour of the latter Pāṇḍu having died, Yudhīsthira, his eldest son, was

taken as heir Duryodhana, the eldest son of Dhṛtarāstra managed by dice-play to banish the Pāṇḍavas, the rightful heirs to the throne, for twelve years and one year more in *incognito* and took the reins of Government in his own hands. The term of exile being over the Pāṇḍavas returned and asked for their throne but Duryodhana, in spite of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's negotiations, was not ready to return even the slightest bit of land without fight. No alternative being left, the Pāṇḍavas declared war against the Kauravas. Both the parties arrayed their soldiers, numbering 18 *akṣauhini*s in the famous field of Kurukṣetra and there ensued the great Bhārata war wherein all the Kṣatriya heroes of India and other countries, took the side of one or the other. The goddess of victory smiled upon the Pāṇḍavas. At the end of the battle there were but five souls alive and the world was rendered heroless.

Episodes of the Mahābhārata

The episodes of the Mahābhārata are numerous. Of these those of Śakuntalā, Rāma, Rāya-sṅga, Ośinara Śivī, the abduction of Draupadī, Sāvitrī and Nala are famous.

1. Śakuntalā.—Once Dusyanta, a descendant of Puru, went a-hunting in the penance-grove of Kanva. There he saw Śakuntalā watering the plants of the grove with her female

Story of
Śakuntalā.

friends The king fell in love with her at first sight On his approach to them, he knew that Kanva was away from the hermitage and the duty of hospitality was entrusted to Śakuntālā, his foster-child Dusyanta married her secretly in the Gandharva way and left the hermitage before the sage came After the departure of the king when Śakuntālā was absorbed in his thought, the Grim Sage Durvāsā appeared on the scene and demanded hospitality, but his words fell on the deaf ears of Sakuntalā Upon this the sage flew into a rage and cursed her that the king for whom she neglected her duty would not be able to remember her without seeing the ring he had given her as a keep-sake at the time of separation Śakuntālā later on became big with child and the sage knowing the cause of this through meditation resolved to send her to the king Śakuntālā on her way to Dusyanta's place lost the ring and was rejected by the king She was then borne away to heaven by Menakā, her mother It so happened that a fisherman was charged with the theft of a royal ring When this was reported to the king, he summoned the man to his presence to know how he had come by it At once the story of Sankuntalā awoke into his memory and he felt very sad Then Mātali, the charioteer of Indra, came down from heaven and informed Dusyanta that his help

was required by Indra for killing a demon The king at once started for heaven and defeated the demon in fight On his way back from heaven he met Śakuntalā with her son Bharata in the hermitage of Kāśyapa and was reunited with her

2 Rāma—Rāma the eldest son of king Dasaratha of Ayodhyā, married Sītā, daughter of Janaka of Mithilā Dasaratha promised Kaikeyī two boons, when he was pleased with her services before Kaikeyī now asked for those two boons She wanted that by these two Rāma should be banished for fourteen years and Bharata her son ascend the throne. Rāma accordingly left the kingdom with his brother Lakṣmaṇa and his wife Sītā and dwelt for some time in the Daṇḍaka forest Sītā was stolen away by Rāvana, the Rākṣasa king of Lankā (Ceylon) Rāma, making alliance with Sugrīva, Hanumān and other chiefs of Kīśkindhyā, made for Lankā and having killed Rāvana in the battle rescued Sītā He then came over to Ayodhyā and became king

Story of
Rāma.

3 Rṣyaśiṅga —Rṣyaśiṅga, son of the sage Vibhāṇḍaka was engaged as a priest by king Lomapāda to do a sacrifice when there was a drought in his kingdom Rṣyaśiṅga produced rain and was rewarded with the hand of Śāntā whom Lomapāda took as adopted daughter from Dasaratha, his friend. Then

Story of
Rṣyaśiṅga

the sage being invited by Dasaratha had gone to his capital and performed *Putresti* sacrifice for him. This resulted in the birth of Rāma and his brothers.

Story of
Śivi

4 Śivi :—King Śivi, son of Uśinara, was famous for his munificence. It is said that Indra and Fire god (Agni) in the guise of a hawk and a falcon respectively appeared before the king to test him. The pigeon for fear of its life took shelter with the king, whereupon the hawk asked the king to give him it as his food. The king thereupon was ready to give the hawk some flesh from his own body equal in weight to that of the pigeon instead. At last he to keep his words was ready to sacrifice his own life even. Thereupon Indra and Agni took their respective forms and praised the king highly for his virtuous deeds and went away.

Stealing of
Draupadī
by Jaya-
dratha.

5 Abduction of Draupadī—When Draupadī was living in exile with the Pāṇḍavas in the Rāmyaka forest, Jayadratha, king of Sindhu, fell in love with her at her sight. Once when Draupadī was alone in the cottage he took her forcibly on his chariot and began to flee away. The Pāṇḍavas on their return found the cottage empty and following Jayadratha in hot haste killed his body guards. Then they took hold of Jayadratha and insulted him in various ways. And the Pāṇḍavas returned with Draupadī to their cottage.

6 Sāvitrī—Sāvitrī, the only daughter of King Asvapati of Madra, was famous for her beauty and virtue. She being ordered by her father to choose a husband for herself went with the ministers and selected Satyavāna, son of king Dyumatsena of Śalya, who, defeated by his enemies, took abode in the forest and lived the life of a hermit. Nārada, the divine sage, protested against this marriage as Satyavāna was doomed to die after a year. Sāvitrī, who gave her heart to Satyavāna was obstinate and so the king gave his consent to it. They were soon married. Satyavāna's span of life was decreasing. Sāvitrī took a vow called *Three-nights* and after its completion followed Satyavāna when he was going to collect sacrificial fuel in a forest. There while chopping a dry bough he felt uneasy and lay down placing his head on the lap of Sāvitrī. Yama appeared on the scene to take the life of Satyavāna but seeing her unflinching devotion to her husband promised her three boons. By virtue of one of these her father in law got back his eyes and by another he was restored to his kingdoms. By the third she was to be the mother of a hundred sons. By this third boon the *God of death* was checkmated and he gave Satyavāna back to Sāvitrī. Then they lived long in happiness.

Story of
Sāvitrī and
Satyavāna.

7 Nala—Nala, king of Niṣadha, was a man of matchless beauty and high virtue. He

**Story of
Nala and
Damayanti**

was attracted by the peerless beauty of Damayanti, daughter of king Bhīma. It is said that he sent a swan to this lady as his messenger. From it she came to know of the virtue and beauty of Nala and fell in love with him. Damayanti's choice of husband by herself being proclaimed Nala started for Vidarbha. On his way he met Indra and other *lords of the quarters* who too were going to the marriage assemblage. These gods sent Nala to Damayanti, to inform her of their love for her. The gods knowing the deep love of Damayanti towards Nala took the shape of Nala and sat in the meeting. Damayanti was able to recognise Nala and put the wedding wreaths round his neck whereupon the gods were pleased with her and left the place after blessing her. The gods on their return met with Dvāpara and Kali. Kali was angry and resolved to bring ruin upon her by hook or by crook. In consequence of his trick Nala was bound to leave his kingdom and to reside in a forest with his wife. After many vicissitudes of life Damayanti, separated from Nala, went to her father's house. There her choice of husband being again declared Nala, who acted as a charioteer of king Vāhuka of Oudh went to Vidarbha and was reunited with Damayanti. Therefrom he went to his kingdom with his wife and spent the rest of his days happily.

Three main editions of the Epic

1 Calcutta edition—This was published in 4 volumes in 1834-39 with the Harivamśa but without any commentary

Calcutta

2 Madras edition—This, printed in Telugu character, came out in four volumes in 1855-60, including Harivamśa and extracts from Nilakantha's commentary

Madras

3 Bombay edition—This was published in Bombay in 1863 with Nilakantha's commentary but without Harivamśa and is decidedly the best edition as regards readings

Bombay



THE RĀMĀYANA.

Origin. 1. Origin of the Rāmāyana —It is said that the Rāmāyaṇa was composed by the great sage Vālmīki living on the bank of the Ganges. The sage at first taught this to Lava and Kuśa, who sang it at the *Horse sacrifice* (Asvamedhayajña) of Rāma Candra before a great assemblage. Professor Macdonell is of opinion that the Rāmāyana was composed at Kośala.

Body. 2 Body of the Epic :—In its present form the epic contains some 24000 Ślokas distributed into seven books called Kāṇḍas.

Names of Kāṇḍa. These are Ādi, Ayodhyā, Araṇya, Kiśkin-dhyā, Sundara, Lankā, and Uttara.

Ādi Kāṇḍa. The Ādi Kāṇḍa describes the birth of Rama, Bharata, Lakṣmaṇa and Satrugṇa, their marriage with Sītā, Maṇḍavī, Tīrmilā, and Śruta-kīrti respectively. It also gives an account of the fore-fathers of Rāma, descent of the Ganges and the humiliation of Paraśurāma.

At the outset of the Ayodhyā Kāṇḍa we find that Daśaratha wishes to make Rāmacandra heir-apparent and consults with Vasiṣṭha and his ministers for the inauguration ceremony of Rāma. At the instigation of Mantharā Kaikeyī asked Daśaratha to banish Rāma for fourteen

years and install her own son Bharata in his place for the two boons promised to her formerly by Dasaratha. Rāmacandra abiding by the orders of his father started for the forest with Lakṣmana and Sita amidst the wailings of the citizens. He struck friendship with Guhaka and then went to the hermitage of Bharadvāja and Vālmiki. Dasaratha died after a few days. Bharata was sent for and came to the capital to perform the funeral ceremony. He went to Rāma to bring him back but Rāmacandra could not be induced to take back the kingdom. Bharata returned with the sandals of Rāmacandra and placing them on the throne at Nandigrām governed the country as a Vice-regent of Rāma.

Avadhya
Kānda

Rāmacandra entered into the Daṇḍaka forest, killed Bīrādha, Khara, Dūšana and Mārīca in the guise of a stag. Rāvaṇa with a view to retaliate upon Rāma for the insult he threw upon Śūrpanakhā by severing her nose and ears stole away Sītā and brought her over to Lankā.

Aranya
Kānda

Rāma makes friends with Sugriva, Hanumān and others, kills Vālī and sends messengers in search of Sītā. The monkeys meet Sampātī and know from him the whereabouts of Sītā.

Kiṣkindhyā
Kānda

Hānumān crosses the ocean, fights with Lankā disguised as a demoness and enters into

Sundara
Kāṇḍa.

the inner apartments of Rāvana. He then goes to the Asoka forest, meets Sītā there and converses with her. Taking a signet ring from Sītā Hanumān becomes ready to return to Kīśkindhyā but before starting he breaks the pleasure garden into pieces, fights with the Rākṣasas, kills many of them and then burns Lankā to ashes. He then pays a visit to Sītā again and starts for Kīśkindhyā and reaching there safe, presents Rāma with the signet ring of Sītā.

Lañkā
Kāṇḍa

Rāmacandra makes Nala construct a bidge over the sea and reaches Lankā with his allies. He makes alliance with Vibhīṣaṇa and after a long fight of ten months kills Rāvana with his friends, relations and captures Lankā. He then made Vibhīṣaṇa king of Lañkā and returned to Ayodhyā with Sītā, Lakṣmaṇa and his friends. The coronation ceremony of Rāmacandrā being over, the Rākṣasas and Vānaras departed to their respective kingdoms and Rāmacandra ruled the kingdom for many years with the help of his brothers.

Uttara
Kāṇḍa.

Agastya comes to Rāmacandra after the inauguration ceremony and relates to him the birth of Rāvana and his brothers, and Rāvaṇa's conquest for the world, etc. On hearing a rumour regarding Sītā he resolves to banish her and asks Lakṣmaṇa to do it. Lakṣmaṇa takes Sītā to the hermitage of Vālmīki and

leaves her there Rāma makes preparation for a horse-sacrifice and lets loose the consecrated horse guarded by Candraketu On the return of the horse the great sacrifice commences. Vālmiki with Kuṣa and Lava attends the ceremony and the two brothers narrate the story of the Rāmāyaṇa there Sītā was sent for and when she appeared Rāmacandra asked her to give the proof of her chastity Whereupon Sītā entered into the nether world Kāla disguised as a sage came to Rāmacandra and managed somehow to induce Rāma to forsake Lakṣmana. Kuṣa and Lava were installed as kings and Rāmacandra with Vānaras, Rākṣasas and principal citizens entered into the waters of the Sarajāṇu.

The valuable researches of professor Jacobi have shown that the five books (II-VI) form the nucleus and that the first and seventh books were subsequently added to it The following arguments are adduced to support this statement

The original position of the Rāmāyaṇa.

(a) Several passages of the first book are directly at variance with the statement of the other books

(b) The main story of the epic is concluded in the sixth book and so there is no necessity of the seventh

The first and last books are later additions.

(c) Moreover we get two tables of contents in the book, one of which takes no notice of the first and last books.

The composition of the last book seems to be a work of an untimely hand and my firm conviction is that it was added afterwards As regards the first book, I believe, it formed a part of the original

Recension.

3 Three recensions :—There are three recensions of the Rāmāyana also These are—The *West Indian*, the *Bengal*, and the *Bombay* editions

Date of the Rāmāyana

4 Date of the Rāmāyana :—The original portion of the Rāmāyana, say some scholars, was most probably composed in the 5th century B C and additions were made sometime after 300 B C Professor Macdonnell supports this view by saying that the original portion of the Rāmāyana was composed before the epic kernel of the Mahābhārata assumed definite shape Further he proves it from the fact, that the heroes of the Rāmāyana are often mentioned in the Mahābhārata, while those of the latter find hardly any place in the former The connection of the Rāmāyana with the *Buddhist literature* helps in ascertaining its date One of the pāli Birth stories gives the story of the Rāmāyana in some altered shape These prove that the origin of the Rāmāyana must precede the Buddhistic period

Internal and external proofs.

The Rāmāyana takes no notice of Pātaliputra though near this very city Rāma marched on his way to the forest Pātaliputra or modern Pātnā was founded by Kālāsoka during whose reign the second Buddhistic council was held in 380 B C The author of the book has mentioned some-

minor cities such as Kausāmbī, and Kānya Kubja Had Pātalīputra existed at the time he would have certainly mentioned it This makes its composition to be earlier than the fourth century B C In the original part of the Rāmāyaṇa we do not get Sāketa as the name of Ayodhyā The Budddhists, Jainas, Greeks and Patanjali in his *Mahābhāṣya* assign this name to Ayodhyā This points to the conclusion that the Rāmāyaṇa was composed before their time The earliest Buddhist literature being composed in the 5th century B C, it can safely be assumed that the Rāmāyaṇa was composed in the 6th century B C at the latest.

As is seen from the body of the book The Rāmāyaṇa aims at popularity About the time of Pāṇini Prākṛit was the dialect of the country where the Epic was composed The language in which the book has been composed could not be understood by the people in general, besides, some of its words do not tally with the system of Pāṇini for their formations Both of these go to show that the book was composed at pre pāṇin-period Pāṇini, as the accepted opinion goes, flourished in the fourth century B C, but Professor Goldstücker is of opinion that his date cannot be later than the 8th century B C If Goldstücker's opinion is taken to be

Language
of the ep

correct, the composition of the Rāmāyana took place at about 9th century B. C. The Mahābhārata, it has now been proved decidedly, was composed about 1500 B. C. The Rāmāyana as it precedes the Mahābhārata, was composed at least about 2000 B. C. Besides we get the name Ikshvāku, Rāma and Dasratha in the Rgveda, therefore the historical germ of the epic dates back to about 4000 B. C.

The style of the Rāmāyana

Style.

Vālmiki is rich in similes. He often uses the cognate figure called *rupaka* or identifications. He also employs other ornaments familiar to the classical poets and the style of his description almost equals that of the classical poets. The Rāmāyana in fact represents the dawn of the later artificial *kāvyas*. Vālmiki is called the *Ādi Kavi* or *first poet* because he was the first to compose the following verse in *sloka* metre after the Vedic period.

“मा निषाद ! प्रतिष्ठा त्वमगम शश्वती समा ।
यत क्रौञ्चमिग्रनादेकमवधौ कानमीक्षितम् ॥

The two parts of the Rāmāyana

Two parts
of the epic

The original Rāmāyana consists of two distinct parts. The first describes the events of the court of king Dasaratha at Ayodhyā and other consequences. There is nothing fantastic in the narrative. The

second is based on myths and is full of marvels and fantasies Messrs Lassen and Weber are of opinion that the story was intended to represent allegorically the first attempts of the Aryans to conquer the Deccan

According to Prof Jacobi it is based on the Indian mythology Sītā can be traced to the Rgveda where she appears as the furrow personified and invoked as a goddess. Rāma would be no other than Indra and his quarrel with Ravana corresponds to the Indra Vrta-myth of the Rgveda. The rape of Sītā has its prototype in the stealing of the cows by Paṇis and recovery of them by Indra Māruti represents Indra's alliance with the dog Saramā and the Maruts in his conflict with Vrtra Saramā crossed the waters of the river Rosā as Māruti did that of ocean and traced the cows

Jacobi and
the Rāmā-
yana.

Story of the Rāmāyana

Dasaratha, king of Ayodhyā had four sons—Rāma, Bharata, Lakṣmana and Śatrughna Dasaratha, being old resolved to declare Rāma, his eldest son, as Yuvarāja or heir-apparent But Kaikeyī, his second queen, whom Daśaratha previously promised two boons, came forward and asked for her boons By one she wanted to banish Rāma for fourteen years and by the other to

Subject
matters of
the Rāmā-
yana

instal Bharata, her son, as Yuvarāja. Rāma accordingly went to the forest accompanied by his beloved brother Lakṣmana and faithful wife Sitā. But as ill luck would have it Sitā was stolen therefrom by Rāvaṇa, the Rākṣasa king of Lankā. Rāma made alliance with Sugrīva, king of Kīśkindhyā, Hanumān and others, and going over to Lankā killed Rāvaṇa with his family and rescued Sitā. Then returning to Ayodhyā he took the reins of government in his own hands from Bharata who acted as a regent of Rāma during his absence.

The Episodes of the Rāmāyana

The Rāmāyana contains several interesting episodes, of which the descent of the Ganges, the story of Viśvāmitra and the origin of the sloka are famous.

Episodes. 1. Descent of the Ganges — The horse of the horse-sacrifice of Sagara being stolen by Indra, his sixty thousand sons went, far and wide, in search of him. They dug the earth with spades and found him standing by Kapila. They thereupon hurled volleys of insulting words upon Kapila and were reduced to ashes by the angry sage. Then their descendants with a view to sanctify the remains of their ancestors tried in vain for centuries to bring down the divine Ganges from heaven. At last Bhagīratha was able, on account of his hard penances, to bring down the heavenly river.

**Bhagīratha
brings down
the Ganges**

2 *Viśvāmitra*—Once *Viśvāmitra* went to the hermitage of *Vasistha* and was highly entertained by the sage. Everything was done by the miraculous power of his cow. Seeing this *Viśvāmitra* took the cow forcibly with him at the time of his departure from the grove. The cow looked piteously at the sage and understanding that he had no power to save her from the iron grip of the king produced mighty soldiers from her body and routed the royal force. The king thus overpowered by the Brahminical power gave himself up to severe penances and attained *Brāhmanhood*. And at last he was reconciled with the noble sage *Vasistha*.

How *Viśvāmitra* attained *Brahmanhood* †

3 *Origin of Sloka*—*Vālmiki* while sitting by the river *Tamasā* for the purpose of ablution saw once a hunter kill a heron out of a loving pair. He was keenly moved at the grief of the female bird and gave vent to his sorrow by the following *Sloka* that came out of his mouth all of a sudden.

(*)-*Origin of Sloka.*

It is said that no verse was composed in such a metre before this in classical literature. It runs thus—

“सा निषाद प्रतिष्ठा त्वगगम शश्वती समा ।

यत् क्रौञ्चमिधुनादेकमवधी कामनीहितम्” ।

Popularity of the Rāmāyana

The epic says that the *Rāmāyana* will survive upon the lips of men as long as mountain-

range stands and rivers flow upon the earth -
 This prophecy has been abundantly fulfilled!
 Its «tories furnish the subjects of many Sans-
 krit poems and plays» It delights the hearts
 of myriads of Indians even now

* यावत्तिष्ठन्ति गिरयः सरितश्च मनीतले ।

तावत् रामायणकथा लोकेषु प्रचरिष्यति ॥ १।२।३६—३३ ।

PURĀNAS.

Definition—The theogonical treatises dealing more or less with the fivefold topics, viz (1) primary creation, (2) dissolution, (3) genealogy of gods and patriarchs, (4) reigns of Manus (mundane cycles) and (5) instructive legends in connection with royal families, go under the general name of the Purānas¹. The term *Purāna* originally meant “Furāṇam ākhyānam” as is evidenced by vedic legends. The name purāṇa is significant in as much as they fill up the gap left by the vedas

Definition
and meaning

Its Origin and antiquity—According to orthodox Hindus the Purānas like the Vedas, were the breathing of the Absolute Being or Brahma². It is said in the Agni and Matsya purānas that Purāṇa at first was remembered by Brahmā and then the four Vedas came out of his four mouths.³ The popular belief is that all the 18 purānas with an equal number of upapurānas were

The origin
the purānas
—their anti-
quity and
authorship.

- 1 “सर्गस्य प्रतिसर्गस्य वंशी मन्वन्तराणि च ।
वंशानुचरितश्चेति पुराणं यच्चलक्षणम् ॥”
- 2 इन्द्रदारस्यक १।४।१०, ४।५।११
- 3 पुराण सर्वशास्त्राणां प्रथमं ब्रह्मणा स्मृतम् ।
मन्वन्तराच्च वक्ष्ये श्रीं वेदास्तस्य विनिर्गताः ॥

Sources of
the purāṇas

composed by Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana Vyāsa. The close study of the vedic literature would show that the Purāṇas reach back to great antiquity and are rooted in them. The germ of a large number of pauranic legends is scattered in many of the Rgveda-hymns. Many legends familiar in the Brāhmanas reappear in the Purāṇas in slightly modified forms. The very name Purāṇa indicates its remotest antiquity. The Atharva-veda (xi 7 24, x 6) mentions the name of purāṇa along with the four Vedas. But the existence of treatises known as purāṇa is proved directly in the sūtra literature. The Dharma Sūtra of Gautama, which is supposed to be the oldest work of the kind, mentions the name of the purāṇas together with the Vedas, the law books and the vedāṅgas and hence there remains no doubt that it speaks of some particular treatises by the term purāṇa. The Āpastamba Dharma sūtra also (which is supposed by the scholars to be very old), has two passages among numerous quotations from the purāṇas and a third from the Bhaviṣya Purāṇa (but it is not found in the modern printed edition). These are sufficient guarantees for the existence of purāṇas and for their antiquity. The above mentioned Dharma Sūtras, in the opinion of some scholars, belong to the fifth

or fourth century B C and therefore these literatures go back at least to 6th century B C It may be that our modern purāṇas are but recasts of the older works designated as purāṇas and for this their existence cannot be denied The Harivamśa which is a supplement to the Mahābhārat, quotes Vāyu purāṇa which exactly agrees with the Vāyupurāṇa that has come down to us The Mahābhārat (1 2 82-83) also mentions the names of Viṣṇu and Bhāṇṣya-purāṇas *

The antiquity of the Purāṇas

Position of Purāṇas in Indian Literature

It is very difficult to find out the exact position of the purāṇas in Indian literature Prof Bühler describes them as "popular sectarian compilations of mythology, philosophy, history and sacred law intended, as they are now used, for the instruction of the unlettered mass, including the upper division of the Śūdra Varṇa" (Laws of Manu S B E X X V. P XC1) Mr Pargiter and J. N Farguhar also echo the something in the following lines "They

Purāṇas, a store-house of mythology, philosophy, law and history

* हौपायनेन यत् प्रोक्तं पुराणं परमर्षिणा । सुरैर्ब्रह्मर्षिभिर्देवैश्च
श्रुत्वा यदभिपूजितम् । Maha. I.1 17. इति वंशं सप्त पर्वं
पुराणं खिलसंश्रितम् । Maha. 1. 2. 82.

† "वाक्योवाक्यमितिहासं पुराणं नैषकमिति एतावान् शब्दस्य
प्रयोगविषयः ।

Mahābhārata
and Rāmā-
yāna speci-
ally its last
part, akin
to Purānas

afford us far greater insight into all aspects and phases of Hinduism—its mythology, its idol worship, its theism and pantheism, its love of God, its philosophy, its superstitions, its festivals and ceremonies and its ethics than any other works" (vide Paigiter, E R E X pp 451 and J.N Ferguhar, Outlines of the Religious Literature of India p 136). The Mahābhārata for the greater part and the Harivamsa almost-entirely partake of the nature of the Purānas. The later books and chapters of the Rāmāyana too are nothing but purānas. There are numerous myths, legends and didactic matters of the purānas in common with the epics. The five fold characteristics of the ordinary purānas and the tenfold characteristics * of the Mahāpurānas, as given by the purānas themselves, show that they are, to speak briefly, a compendium of treatises secular or spiritual.

Two kinds
of Purānas

Purānas—their relation with the Vedas

Purānas—a
part of the
Vedas

It is said that the Purānas are the fifth Veda † Itihāsa, which is a part of

* सर्ग, प्रतिसर्ग, वृत्ति, रत्ना, अक्षर, वंश, वंशानुचरित, संशय, हेतु and अपात्रय ।

† इतिहासपुराणानि पञ्चम वेदमीश्वर ।

सर्वेभ्यः एव वक्त्रेभ्यः सृष्टेः सर्वदर्शन । भागवत पुराण ३।१२।६

इतिहासः पुराणश्च पञ्चमो वेद उच्यते ।

वेदान्त्यापयामास महाभारतं पञ्चमान् ।

the purānas, is also called the fifth Veda in the Chāndogya upanishad*. The Mahābhārata says that the Vedas should be swollen by histories and purānas †. But the Vedas cannot be filled up by non-vedic texts, so, according to the orthodox view these books are part and parcel of the Vedas.

*Classes of Purānas—their number
and divisions*

There are two broad divisions of the purānas—the puranas and Mahāpurānas in accordance with the fivefold and tenfold characteristics possessed by them as has been said before. The purānas are didactic in character and sectarian in purpose. From the sectarian stand point they fall under three heads—the Vaisnava, the Saiva and the Brāhma purānas. There are eighteen purānas and these are divided equally in three groups to magnify the glory of Viṣṇu, Śiva and Brahmā respectively. Thus we find that the pauranic doctrines consists mainly of the worship of the *Trinity*—Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Mahesvara. Rajoguṇa is predominant in Brahmā, Sattvagūṇa is predominant in Viṣṇu and tamoguṇa is predominant in Maheswar. So in the last

The Purānas
—their cha-
racteristics
and divisions

* ऋग्वेद भगवोऽध्यैमि यजुर्वेद सामवेदमायर्वंश्च चतुर्थमिति-
हास पञ्चम वेदानां वेदम् । छान्दोग्य ३।१।५।७

† इतिहासपुराणाभ्यां वेद समुपवृद्धयेत्—महाभारत १।१।२६७।

Number of
Purāṇas—
their bulk

Division of
the Purāṇas

section of the Padma Purāṇa we find the purāṇas divided into three classes in accordance with the three guṇas, the rajah, the Sattva and the Tamha. So they are also called the Rājasik, Sāttvik and Tāmasik Purāṇas * This list of Padma Purāṇa corresponds exactly to that given in the Viṣṇu purāṇa but some purāṇas read Vāyu in place of Śaiva Purāṇ, while others take Vāyu in lieu of Brhama which is taken as Purāṇa Saṃhitā. It is said that the purāṇas like the Vedas were formerly one undivided whole consisting of a hundred crores of ślokas, which explain how the fourfold pursuits of human desire, viz, dharma, artha, Kāma and mokṣa, can be attained. In course of time people were disgusted to study such a bulky and unwieldy text. So Kṛiṣṇa Dvaipāyana Vyāsa, an incarnation of Lord Viṣṇu, divided and arranged it in 18 parts. Each of these parts came to be known as a purāṇa. The words of Brahmā unto Marīchi in the Bṛhannāradiya purāṇa support the above statement.

* “यात्स्न्यं कौन्थं तथा लोङ्गं शैवं स्कान्दं तथैव च ।
आग्नेयं च षड्विंशतिं तामसानि निबोधत ॥
वैष्णवं नारदीयं च तथा भागवतं शुभम् ।
गारुडं तथा पाद्मं वाराहं शुभदर्शनम् ।
सात्त्विकानि पुरुषानि विज्ञेयानि शुभानि वै ॥
ब्रह्माण्डं ब्रह्मवैवर्ते मार्कण्डेयं तथैव च ।
भविष्यं वामनं ब्राह्मं राजसूनि विबोधत ॥

Pauranic creation etc—The paurānic creation corresponds to that of the Sāṃkhya Philosophy and the code of Manu somewhat modified. In the Sāṃkhya philosophy convulsion in the primordial matter is caused by the presence of Puruṣa, whereas in the purāṇas it is the volition of Brahmā that causes this disturbance. The state of equilibrium of the three guṇas, *sattva*, *rajaḥ* and *tamaḥ*, is Prakṛti. When this equilibrium is disturbed, Prakṛti marches upon its courses of evolution and there appear 24 categories known as 24 tattvas. Puruṣa coming in contact with Prakṛti, his own power, manifests himself as Isvara and the threefold divinities, Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva. In Isvara there is pure *sattva-guṇa*, while in Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva there is predominance of *rajaḥ*, *sattva* and *tamaḥ* guṇas respectively. Being desirous of creation Brahmā created *Bīrat* who in his turn created ten Prajāpaties. These Prajāpaties created men. This manifested world at the end of a Manvantara enters into Brahma and remains there in its potential state till new creation begins. This state is known as Pratisarga or resolution. By Vamśa is meant the genealogy of gods, sages, and kings. Manvantara is the time presided over by a particular Manu. This com-

Creation
according to
Purānas

Manvantara.

Names of
Manus and
their time

prises 71 yugas, where a yuga is the
sometotal of Satya, Tretā, Dvāpari and
Kali There are 14 Manus, viz, (1) स्वायम्भुव
(2) सारोचिष (3) उत्तन (4) तामस (5) रैवत (6) चाक्षुष
(7) वैवस्वत (8) सावर्धि (9) दक्षसावर्धि (10) ब्रह्मसावर्धि (11)
धन्वसावर्धि (12) देवसावर्धि (13) रुद्रसावर्धि and (14) इन्द्रसावर्धि.
Now we are living in the time of Vaiva-
svata Manu

Characteris-
tics of
Purāṇas

Legendary accounts in connection
with gods, sages and kings with an eye
to the instruction of people go by the gene-
ral name of Vamsānucarit Viṣṇupurāṇa
(3 6 25) says that all the purāṇas describe
these five things But unfortunately all
these five things are not found in many
purāṇas This discrepancy is in corroboration
of our statement that the modern purāṇas
are but recasts of the old ones Besides this
there are other reasons also to arrive at
the above conclusion

Number of
verses con-
tained in
the purāṇas

It is found that the total number
of ślokas in all the pu āns is 400,000
The Matsya, the Agni, the Brahma Vai-
varta and the Devī Bhāgavata give
an account of them From this we can
know that (1) Viṣṇu purāṇ has 23000 vers-
es but the book as we get it now contains
only 6000 ślokas (2) The original Brahma
Purāṇ is said to have 10,000 ślokas, but
the purāṇ edited by Vangavāsī Press con-

Viṣṇu and
Brahma
purāṇas.

tains 15000 ślokas, showing clearly that about a third of it has been interpolated (3) The original Padma purāṇ had 55,000 ślokas The original purāṇ, it is stated, had five sections viz, Śrīśukhanda, Bhūmikhanda, Pātākhanda and Uttarkhanda, but the present edition contains Brahmakhanda and Kṛivavogakhanda in addition to them it contains, moreover, many things which are not found in its Anukramanikā The Vāyu purāṇ, as we have said before, is taken in lieu of Śiva purāṇ (4) The original Vāyu purāṇ had 24,000 ślokas, but the Vangavāsī edition has 19,000 ślokas This has 6 Smāhitās, namely, ज्ञान, विश्वेश्वर, कैलास, सनत्कुमार, वायु and चक्ष, but the original Śiva purāṇ had 12 Smāhitās (5) There is a controversy with regard to the Bhāgavata purāṇ It is believed by some that Devī Bhāgavata is the real Bhāgavata purāṇ, while the Bhāgavata in its present form is but an Upapurāṇ In the opinion of some this Bhāgavata was composed by Vopadeva Gosvāmī But there is a manuscript of the Bhāgavata purāṇ in the library of the Queen's College, Benares, written in the 12th Century A D, much earlier than the time of Vopadeva Besides, the temple of Pāhāḍpur has some pictures that tally exactly with some scenes of the Bhāgavata.

Padma
Purāṇa—
its ślokas

Vāyū
Purāṇa—
its ślokas

The Bhāga-
vata Purāṇa
—its ślokas.

This temple is thought to belong to the Buddhistic period. Therefore there remains no doubt with regard to its antiquity. The original Bhāgavata had 18,000 ślokas.

The Agni-
purāṇa—
its ślokas

(6) The original Agnīpurāṇ had 15,800 ślokas. Besides it contains many things, such as, metre, figures of speech, astronomy, grammar etc. which do not come within the purview of the purāṇas.

The Nārā-
diya purāṇa
its—ślokas

(7) The original Nāradiya purāṇa had 25,000 ślokas, the modern purāṇ falls short of it.

The Mār-
kandeya,
Bhaviṣya,
Brahma
vaivarta
Varāha, and
Līṅga
Purāṇas—
their verses

(8) The original Mārkaṇḍeya purāṇ had 9000 ślokas, while the present purāṇ has only 7000 ślokas. (9) The original Bhaviṣya purāṇ had 14,500 ślokas, but the present printed purāṇ has 25000 ślokas, moreover it does not tally with the account as given in the Matsya purāṇ. (10) The original Brahma Vaivarta purāṇ had 18,000 ślokas, the present printed edition does not agree with the number. The index of the book is not similar to that given in the Nāradiya purāṇ. (11) The original Varāha purāṇ had 24,000 ślokas, but the Vāṅgavāsī edition has only 9000. Besides it contains many things which do not fall in the province of the purāṇas. (12) The original Līṅga purāṇ had 15000 ślokas, but the number found in the Vāṅgavāsī edition is less than that. (13) The original

Skanda purāṇ, according to the Matsya and the Agni purāṇs had 81,100 or 84,000 slokas, but according to Bhabisiya purāṇ the number was 100,000 Besides, it is stated that the purāṇ had 6 Samhitās, viz, सनतकुमार, श्रुत, शाङ्गरी, वैष्णवी, ब्राह्मी and सौरी, but in the printed edition we get seven sections—महेश्वर, विश्व, ब्रह्म, काशी, आवन्त, नागर and प्रसाद. (14) The original Vāmana Purāṇ is said to contain the four Samhitās—Māhesvari, Bhāgavati, Sauri and Gāṇesvari, each containing a thousand slokas This is not found in the present printed edition (15) The original Kurma Purāṇa had four sections—Brāhma, Bhāgavati, Sauri and Vaisnavi, but the present printed edition has only the Brāhmi section, which is only a part of the whole. (16) The original Matsya Purāṇa had 50 chapters consisting of 14000 Slokas but it is not found in the present printed edition (17) According to some Purāṇs the original Garuḍa Purāṇa had 18,000 slokas, while according to other Purāṇs, the number was 18000 distributed into two sections, Purva Khaṇḍa, and Uttara Khaṇḍa The present printed edition has only 11000 Slokas. (18) The original Vāyu purāṇ had 24000 slokas but the present printed edition contains less number.

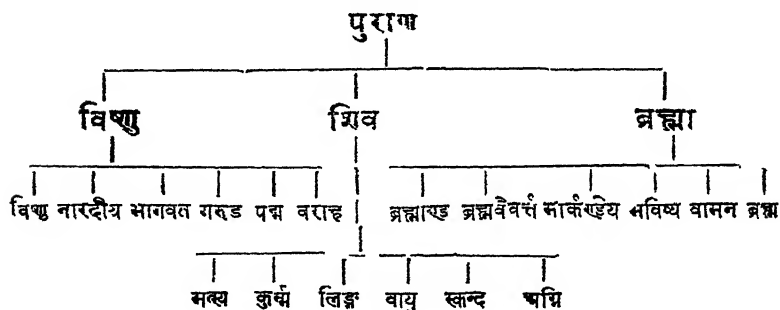
The Skanda
purāṇs—its
verses

The Vāmana,
the Kurma,
the Matsya,
the Garuḍa
the Vāyu
Purāṇas—
their slokas

The Purāṇas, as we have said before, are divided into three classes in as much as

The Brāhma,
Vaiṣṇava and
Śaiva purāṇ-
as—their
names and
subject
matter

they magnify the glory of Brahmā, Viṣṇu or Śiva. The Viṣṇu, Nāradiya, Bhāgavata, Gṛhṇa, Padma and Varāha are sacred to Viṣṇu, the Matsya, Kurma, Linga, Vāyu, Skanda and Agni are sacred to Śiva and the Brahmāṇḍa, Brahma Vaivarta, Mārkaṇḍeya, Bhaviṣya, Vāmana and Brahma are sacred to Brahmā. We give below a table of these Purāṇas and a short description of them all.



The Brahma Purāṇ, says the Viṣṇu Purāṇ, is the oldest of all and therefore we begin with this.

Brahma
Purāṇa—its
subject
matter

1. *Brahmā*—The earlier chapters give a description of the creation and an account of the solar and lunar dynasties up to the time of Kṛṣṇa. Then follows a description of the universe and an account of Orissa with its holy places and the temples of Jagannātha and Konārka. To this succeeds a description of the life of Kṛṣṇa.

The work ends with an account of the Yoga. It describes also Yugadharma, Varnāśramadharma, Tīrtha and the origin of the Gangā.

2 *Brahmānda*—This is not found as a collective work, but exists only in fragments. Adhyātma Rāmāyana is considered to be a part of this purāna. In the list of purānas given in the Kurma purān, the eighteenth purān is called Vāyaviya Brahmānda and therefore, in my opinion, this purān is otherwise known as Vāyu purān. It is divided into four sections—the Prakṛtyapāda, Anu-angapāda, Upodghātapāda and Upaśamhārāpāda. In it we find the descriptions of creation, kalpas, different yugas, manvantar, dynasties of kings and divisions of earth.

Subject
matter of
the Brahmā-
nda purāna

3 *Brahmavaiṣṭvavarta*—This is divided into four sections—Brahma, Prakṛti, Ganeśa and Śrīkṛṣṇa. The first describes creation, quarrel between Nārada and Brīhadrā, attainment of true knowledge etc. The second gives an account of Primordial Nature and various vows and worship. The third gives an account of the birth of Ganeśa and Kārtikeya and of the legends of Parasurāma.

Brahma vai-
varta Purā-
na—its sub-
ject matter

* Mr Winternitz thinks that the description of the temple of Konārka was a later interpolation as the temple was not built until 1241 A. D. (Vide his Indian Literature vol I p 535) But it may be that the reference is not to the modern temple

The fourth has an account of the birth of Śrīkṛṣṇa and his glorious deeds

Mārkaṇḍeya
Purāṇa—its
subject
matter

4 *Mārkaṇḍeya*—It is one of the most important and interesting of the purāṇas. The purāṇa is called Mārkaṇḍeya after its narrator, the sage Markandeya. It is one of the oldest purāṇas too. The Sapta-Śatī Candī, which is read regularly or occasionally in many Hindu houses and specially in connection with the Durgā Pūjā festival, forms a part of it. It is curious to note here that like the older purāṇas it does not extol Viṣṇu and Śiva in a way in which the other purāṇas do. In it Indra, Brahmā, Agni and Sūrya occupy a prominent place, like ancient Vedic deities. There is a series of legends here, viz., the legends of Hariscandra, Hahaya, Madālasā, Alarka, Avijit, Tulasi, Rāmācandra, Pururavaḥ, Kṛṣṇa etc. Besides it describes various kinds of creation, manvantara, nine sorts of virtue etc. The lunar dynasty, the race of Yadu and the family of Kūsa are also described here.

Subject
matter of
the Bhaviṣ-
ya Purāṇa

5. *Bhaviṣya*—As the name indicates, the work gives an account regarding what would happen in the future. But we are frustrated in our hopes. The work treats of creation and explains the Samskāras and the duties of different castes and orders of life. This is a sort of the

manual of religious office. The number of legends is very scanty. The Nāga Pancamī festival and the worship of the sun in Śāka-dvīpa occupy a considerable section of the book. Many vows and mātmyas, both modern and ancient, claim to be a part of this or Bhāṣiyottara purāṇa, which seems to be a continuation of this purāṇa.

6. *Vāmana*—The work begins with an account of the Vāmana incarnation of Viṣṇu, whence it derived its name. The incarnations of Viṣṇu in general are also dealt with in some chapters. This also describes the legends of Dakṣa's sacrifice, the burning of Kāmadeva, the marriage of Śiva and Umā and of the birth of Kārtikeya. Descriptions of some holy places too are found in the work.

Vāmana
Purāṇa—its
subject
matter

7. *Viṣṇu*—In this book Viṣṇu is glorified and worshipped as the highest deity. The Vaiṣṇavas, specially the Viṣṇuī sect of the Rāmānujas, take it as an authority on their religion. It is one of the oldest purāṇas. This is divided into six books. The first book speaks of the creation of Viṣṇu and Lakṣmī. Attached to the account of crea-

Viṣṇu
Purāṇa—its
subject
matter

* गङ्गा प्रवाहवती दीपौ शान्धिलिङ्गापरो दिग्ग ।
कुम्भं शौचं सद्यः शान्धं पुष्करजैश्च समम् ॥
एते दीपा समुद्रैस्तु समस्तभिराहताः ।
लब्धेष्टसुखमपिर्दधिद्रुग्धमलैः समम् । २।५।६

tion of gods, demons and primal ancestors of human race, there are numerous mythological narratives, allegories and legends of ancient kings and sages. The second book describes the earth with its seven islands and seven seas. It gives the legend of the king Bharata in connection with Bhārata-varṣa. The third book gives an account of the Vedas and its division by Vyāsa, defines purāṇas and enumerates their number. It also gives an account of the Manus and the ages they rule over. Then is discussed how one may attain salvation. It is followed by an exposition on the duties of castes and orders of life (व्यवस्था). The fourth book gives an account of the solar and lunar races along with legends connected therewith. There is also a brief account of Rāma-legend. The fifth book gives in detail the biography of Kṛṣṇa resembling the account of Harivaṃśa. The sixth book describes the four yugas and different kinds of dissolution. The last chapter briefly recapitulates the contents of the whole purāṇa and ends with the praise of Viṣṇu.

8 *Naradīya Purāṇa* — This purāṇ is generally called Brhannāradiya purāṇa in order to distinguish it from the Nāradiya upapurāṇa. He (Nārada) preaches the doctrine of Viṣṇu-bhakti. Various legends are told

Subject-matter of the Nāradiya Purāṇa

here with a view to illustrate the Viṣṇu cult. It contains a list of sins and the corresponding punishment to be suffered at hell. Duties of castes and āśramas too obtain in some chapters.

9 *Bhāgavata*—This work exerts at present a great influence on the life and thought of the adherents of the Liṅga-vata sect. This holy scripture is respected and studied regularly by many Vaiṣṇavas. The book resembles closely the Viṣṇu purāṇa with regard to its contents. The work is divided into 12 sections called skandas. It describes creation and the incarnations of Viṣṇu. Kapila, the expounder of Sāṃkhya philosophy, is mentioned as an incarnation of Viṣṇu. It narrates also the legends of Prahlāda and Dhruva. The episode of Śakuntalā is referred to in the 9th book. It contains the biography of Kṛṣṇa. The wonderful feats of the early life of Kṛṣṇa are described elaborately in the 10th book, the longest of all the books. The destruction of the Yādavas and death of Kṛṣṇa are given in book XI. The 12th book speaks of the characteristics of the Kali-yuga and the dissolution of the world.

Bhāgavata-
Purāṇa—its
subject
matter

10 *Garuḍa Purāṇa*—This was revealed to Garuḍa by Viṣṇu himself and hence the name. It deals with creation, genealogies of solar and

Garuḍa
Purāṇa—
its—contents

lunar dynasties, the ages of the world, expiatory rites and festivals sacred to Viṣṇu. Glorification of sacred places is also related herein. This lays down the rules for the five kinds of sectarian worship that are in vogue in India, viz the worship of Viṣṇu, Śiva, Durgā, Sūrya and Ganeśa. It deals, besides, with many of the legends of the Rāmāyaṇa and the Mahābhārata, along with an account of astronomy, astrology, grammar, politics, and of precious tones. Of the Māhātmyas described here that of Gayā is very important.

The contents
of the
Padma
Purāṇa

II. *Padma*—There are two different recensions of this work. The one consists of six books, Ādi, Bhūmi, Brahma, Pātāla, Sṛṣṭi, and Uttara Khanda, while the other consists of five books, Sṛṣṭi, Bhūmi, Svarga, Pātāla and Uttara Khanda. It is the most voluminous of all the purāṇas and derives its name from the navel-lotus of Viṣṇu in which Brahmā appeared. Here Brahmā is said to be the first cause. The book relates cosmological and cosmogonic myths and abounds in legends glorifying the god Viṣṇu. The description of creation is followed by an account of the solar and lunar races along with Pitaras. A part of the book describes the lake Puṣkara sacred to Brahmā. There are mentioned many feasts and vows in honour of the goddess Durgā. The book closes with a description of the birth and marriage

of Skanda. The Bhumikāṇḍa begins with legends of Somaśarmā who in his next birth was born as Prahlāda. This describes the sanctity of various tirthas and gives the story of Yayāti and his son Puru. The Svargakhaṇḍa narrates various regions of gods and the worlds of the Bhūtas, Pisācas, Gandharvas, Vidyā-dharas and Apsaras. The story of Śakuntalā given here resembles more of Kālidāsa's drama than the versions of the Mahābhārata. The legend of Pururavaḥ and Urvaśī is also told here in connection with the description of the world of Apsarās. It relates the duties of various āśramas and castes and of the modes of the worship of Viṣṇu. The Pātālā khaṇḍa describes the subterranean regions with special reference to the world of the Nāgas. The legend of Rāma partly resembling the Rāmāyana and partly Kālidasa's epic Raghuvamśa is found here. This also describes the horse-sacrifice of Rāma that was performed to wash away his sin arising from the murder of Rāvana, a Brahmana. Then follows the account of purāṇas wherein it is said that Vyāsa first proclaimed Padma purāṇa, and the the sixteen other purāṇas and at last the Bhagavata purāṇa. The book ends with the tales of Kṛiṣṇa, Rādhā and other cowherdesses and the description of the sanctity of Śālagrāma Śilās. The Uttarakhaṇḍa expounds the

Viṣṇu cult with feasts and ceremonies connected therewith. A large portion of the book is devoted to the glorification of the month of Māgha and Kārtika. This describes the Rāma legend and the Kṛṣṇa legend in details. The book speaks of the glorification of the Gītā and explains what Viṣṇu Bhakti is. The Kṛiyājogasāra forms an appendix to this.

Varāha
Purāṇa—its
subject
matter

12 *Varāha*—The subject-matter of the work is related to the goddess Bhagavati by Viṣṇu in his incarnation as a boar, whence the title of the book is derived. The book contains brief allusions to creations and genealogies of gods, sages, and kings. It is a sort of manual to prayers and rule for the Vaisnavas. There are legends in connection with Śiva and Durgā too. It contains also the story of the birth of Gaṇeśa. Besides, it deals with Srāddhas, Prāyascittas, creation of the sages and of the gods. Mathurā māhatmya occupies a considerable portion of the book. This also contains the tale of Naciketā in a modified form.

Subject
matter of
the Matsya
Purāṇ

13 *Matsya*—This is one of the old purāṇas and is in keeping with the definition of a purāṇ. It owes its title to the fact that Viṣṇu in his incarnation as a fish saved the Vedās and Manu from the great deluge. A full account of creation and genealogies is given here along with the descriptions of the Fathers and their cult. There are sections dealing

with astronomy, geography and chronology. It gives a reliable accounts of the Andhra dynasty. Many legends of the Māhābhārata and Harivamśa are repeated here. Besides, it describes the glory of Prayāga, Bārāṇasī and the river Narmadā. There are detailed account of ceremonials in connection with the building of a house, the creation and dedication of images of gods, and temples etc. Religious feasts and festivals of the Vaiṣṇavas are described side by side with those of the Śaivas.

14 *Kurma*—The work itself states that there are four sections, viz, Brāhmī, Bhāgavatī, Saurī and Vaiṣṇavī in it, but only Brahmi Samhitā has come down to us. The incarnation of Viṣṇu as a tortoise is adored here. During the churning of the oceans the mountain Mandara, which acted the part of the churning rod, rested on the back of this tortoise. Śiva is taken in high esteem throughout the work, but it is emphasised again and again that Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva are but one in reality. Śakti, i.e. the energy of creative force is worshipped here as a female deity. In decision of the question, which god was more worthy of worship, the Saptarṣis decided that the deity worshipped by a man is the highest with him. It is possessed of the fivefold characteristics of purāṇas.

Subject
matter of
Kurma
purāṇas.

It speaks of the incarnations of Śiva This also sings the sanctity of Allahabad and Benares The second part opens with Isvara Gītā teaching the knowledge of Śiva and it is followed by Vyās Gītā This deals also with expiatory rites for all sorts of sins

Contents of
Linga
Purāṇa.

15. *Linga*—The work begins with an account of the creation and according to this Śiva is the creator The Vedas too proceed from *Linga*. It deals mainly with the worship of Śiva in his various forms Legends in connection with the 26 incarnations of Śiva are told here It seems that the work was highly influenced by the Tantras

Subject
matter of
Vāyu
Purāṇa.

16 *Vāyu*—In some lists, as we have stated before, there is the name of Śaiva Purāṇa in lieu of the Vāyu purāṇa The rule of the Guptas given in this purāṇa tallies with those of the 4th century A D This too has the fivefold characteristics of the ancient purāṇas Towards the close of the work we meet with a description of the end of the world and the efficacy of *Yoga*. It ends with the description of Śiva-pura.

Skanda
Purāṇa—its
Subject
matter.

17. *Skanda*—It is the most voluminous of all the purāṇas next to Padma. This is not a work in collective form but exists in fragments. It is called Skanda in as much as it is said by Skanda, son of Śiva. This purāṇa is divided into six Saṃhitās, viz., Sanatkumāriya,

Sūta, Brāhmī, Vaiṣṇavī, Sāṅkarī and Saurī. The Sūta Samhitā again is divided into four Khandas dealing respectively with the worship of Śiva, practice of yoga, ways of attaining salvation and the rules of Vedic rituals. The Sanatkumar Samhitā relates the glory of the sacred places of Benares. The Saura Samhitā has cosmogonic theories. The Sāṅkarī Samhitā is otherwise known as Agastya Samhitā. Skanda is supposed to have communicated this to the sage Agastya. The Kāśī khaṇḍa and Utkala khaṇḍa belonging to the above section describes the glory of Kāśī and Orissā in order with their temples and sacred places.

18. *Agni*—The work is so called as it was communicated to Vasiṣṭha by Agni. It describes the incarnations of Viṣṇu among which Rāma and Kṛṣṇa are the chief. It deals also with the cult of Śiva and Durgā. There is special mention of tantric rites in the book. A few chapters of the work are devoted on death and transmigration. It gives a summary of the Bhāgavat Gītā and the Yama Gītā. It contains also cosmological, Genealogical and geographical sections peculiar to the purāṇas. This purāṇa is specially interesting for its encyclopaedic character. It deals with Astrology, Astronomy, Geography, marriage, funeral rites, house building, the art of war, the politics, the laws, medicines, poetry, grammar, lexicography and what not.

A brief account of Agni purāṇ.

Subject
matter and
history of
the Purāṇas

Three strata
of the
Purāṇas

It would not be out of place to give here the following for the independent judgment of the reader. It is said in the Mahābhārata that the Purāṇas were cited by Ugrasravā, the son of Romaharsana at the twelve years' sacrifice of Saunaka in Namisāranya. From the purāṇas we can gather that this sacrifice was celebrated during the reign of Asīma Kṛṣṇa, the great grand son of Parikṣit. But there are some purāṇas, which contain the names of kings reigning from the 4th century B C down to the 4th century A D. Therefore those cannot but be interpolations of subsequent ages. The speakers of the purāṇas and the persons to whom they were addressed, as also the names of kings during whose reign they were cited give us ample opportunity to divide the purāṇas into three strata. The purāṇas of the first stratum, probably compiled by Romaharsana, cover the period extending to the reign of Janamejaya, those of the second compiled by Ugrasravā extended to the time of Asīma Kṛṣṇa, those of the third contain the names of king who reigned after Asīma Kṛṣṇa till the close of the 4th century A. D. These have been described as prophecies. But there is a section of orthodox Hindus that believe that the sage Vyāsa, the seer of all the three times, the present, the past and the future, as he was, it was, not impossible

for him to give their names. This, in our opinion, needs no comment. The genealogical list of the Andhra kings in the Maṣṭya and other purāṇas was composed and interpolated perhaps about 236 A D and the mention of the Guptas found in the Viṣṇu, Brahāṇḍa, Vāyu and Bhāgavata purāṇas was interpolated perhaps in the earlier part of the 4th-century A D,

Mr Pargitar thinks that the modern purāṇas were translated into Sanskrit from Māghadhī Prakṛt in which they were formerly written and for this (as the rule of putting numerals in Māghadhī is quite distinct from that of Sanskrit) there is discrepancy of the number of years with reference to the rule of a particular king and in support of this he has adduced many arguments. But before coming to such a conclusion we should consider the following facts. His arguments may apply only to the future portions of the purāṇas and not to their entire body. Besides, there is no tradition or any record found in any work that corroborates his statement. Moreover, no manuscript of purāṇas written in Māghadhī Prakṛt has not come to our sight. We find in the purāṇas and other scriptures that these were written in classical Sanskrit for the study of the women and the Śūdras, as they were not allowed to read Vedic texts.

W. Pargitar
on the
Purāṇas.

So we do not agree with the view of Mr Pargitar

The Purā
nas and
their value.

The purānas are not only important to historians but to antiquarian also as sources of political history and history of religion. They are an interesting study to our indigenous poets also. Some suppose that Kālidāsa is greatly indebted to Padma Purāna as he imitated closely the legends of Pururavaḥ and Urvasī, of Sakuntalā and of Rāma found there in his Vikramorvasīyam, Sakuntaālm and Raghuvaṇsam.

Upapurānas
—their
number

Besides these puranas there is an exact number of Upapurānas composed by the author of the Puranas. Of these Devī Bhāgavata, Sūrya Purān, Brhannāradiya Purān, Nṛsimha purān, Saura purān, Śiva Dharmottara, Mahesvara purāṇa, Marīci purāna, Kālikā purān, Śāmba purāna and Brihatdharma puran are important.

CHAPTER VIII.

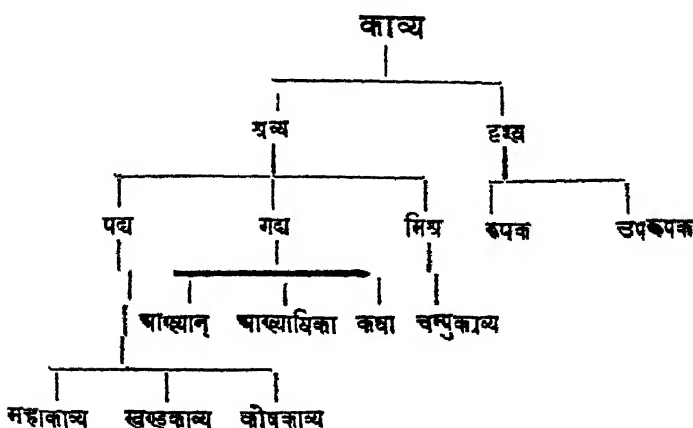
KĀVYA OR COURT EPIC.

(200 B C.—1000 A D)

Age of Kāvya Poetry.

Sanskrit Kāvya may roughly be divided into two sections—Drśya-Kāvya and Śravya-Kāvya. Śravya-Kāvya may either be written in prose, or a mixture of prose and poetry, Kōsa-Kāvya, Mahā-Kāvya and Khaṇḍa Kāvya are written in verse, while, Ākhyāyikā and Kathā are written mainly in prose having some verses here and there. A class of mixed composition is called Campukāvya. *

Division of
Kāvya



* गद्यपद्यमय काव्य चम्पु रित्यभिधीयते ।

Date of the Kāvya

History and
age of
Kāvya.

The real history of the Kāvya begins with the reign of Harṣavardhana of Thanesvara (606-41). The date of no Kāvya is known precisely before this time. The Brhatsaṃhitā of Varāhamihira was undoubtedly composed in the middle of the sixth century A D. It is not yet certain when Kālidāsa, Subandhu, Bhāravi, Gunādhyāya and other famous poets were born. Undoubtedly their name and fame spread far and wide about 600 A D. Thus we see that though the literary history of India is obscure during the first five centuries of the Christian era, there are valuable evidences to ascertain the age of Kāvya literature.

Māhābhā-
ṣya.

Patañjali's Mahābhāṣya refers to court poetry in general. Court-poetry must therefore, have been developed before the beginning of the Christian era.

Buddha-
carit.

Asvaghosha's Buddha Carita was translated into Chinese between 414 and 521 A D. It is said that the author lived in the 2nd century A D during the time of the Buddhist king Kaniska (125 A. D.)

Epigraphy.

Epigraphic research has shed much light on the history of court poetry of the first five centuries of the Christian era. Samudra Gupta, the second king of the Gupta line, was himself a poet and patron of poets. He lived in the first half of the fourth century A D.

Harisena's panegyric on his royal patron consists of both verse and prose and shows masterly style rivalling that of Kālidāsa and Dandī. The Vīdarbha style, in which Kālidāsa wrote, developed about 300 A. D.

Panegyrics.

About 473 A. D. Vatsabhatti wrote a poem consisting of some forty-four stanzas to commemorate the consecration of a temple of the sun at Dasapura.

Vatsabhatti

The two important prose inscriptions of Gīrnar and Nāsika prove the existence of the prose Kāvya style in the 2nd century A. D. The Gīrnar inscription shows that the author was acquainted with the theory of poetics. Therefore it cannot be said that the Kāvya was an invention of the 2nd century A. D. Epigraphic researches confirm the evidence of the Mahābhāshya that court poetry originated before the commencement of the Christian era.

Gīrnar and Nāsik inscriptions

The above evidences prove clearly that artificial epic originated before the Christian era and continued to be cultivated during the succeeding centuries without any break.

Continuous development

The Renaissance Theory.

Professor Maxmüller holds that the middle of the sixth century when king Vikramāditya, whose court was adorned by the nine gems, ruled over Ujjain, was the Augustan period of Indian court poetry. This is his

Maxmüller
and his Re-
naissance
theory—its
refutation.

well known theory of the *Renaissance of Sanskrit literature*. He says that this literary activity ceased owing to the inroads of the Turanians from the first century B. C. to the third century of the christian era. This theory of a *literary interregnum* between the 1st century B. C. and 3rd century A. D. has been upset by the Girnar and Nāsika inscriptions and by epigraphical evidences as well National Indian architecture and sculpture also attained a high state of development at Mathurā under Kaṇṣka and his successors

Korore the-
ory or Fer-
gusson's
Hypothesis
—its refu-
tation.

Maxmüller's theory which is founded on the chronological hypothesis of Fergusson is very weak, because the hypothesis itself has no foundation. Fergusson says that Vikrama of Ujjain founded the Vikrama era in 544 A. D. in commemoration of his victory over the Scythians' at Karore dating its beginning, 600 years back to 56 B. C. The epigraphical research of Dr. Flect has destroyed this theory. From this we know that from B.C. 56 down to about 800 A. D. the era founded by Vikrama went by the name of Mālava era, after that it is known by the name of Vikrama Saṃvat. Court epic, doubtless, flourished at least two hundred years before the Gupta period

Māllinatha's (14th century) explanation of the word Dignāga occurring in the Meagaduta seems to be weak. In the first place

that Dignāga was the hated rival of Kālidāsa is in itself dubious. Secondly, it is not certain if Kālidāsa meant the Buddhist teacher Dignāga. Thirdly, little weight can be attached to the tradition that Dignāga was a pupil of Vasubandhu, for this is not found till 6th century A. D. Fourthly, Vasubandhu's date in the 6th century A. D. depends on Vikrama theory which is itself baseless.

Dignāga
Theory

The other main argument that Kālidāsa lived after Āryabhatta (A. D. 499) has also no foundation, for the passage "ह्याश हि सूर्यः शशिनी मलत्वेनारोपिता शुद्धिमत् प्रजाभि." does not refer to the eclipse of the moon caused by the shadow of the earth but to the black spot on the moon which is according to purāṇas are caused by the shadow of the earth. So Kālidāsa is not indebted to Āryabhatta for his astronomical knowledge also.

Kālidāsa's
indebtedness
to Ārya
bhata

THE DATE OF KĀLIDĀSA

There being no regular and historical records, orientalists have had to rely mainly upon indirect evidence, allusions to contemporary persons or events, and developments of style and language, in ascertaining the age of Kālidāsa. But the conclusions they have arrived at are as divergent as the poles.

We give below the conflicting theories regarding the age of the poet

Native tradition places Kālidāsa at the court of Vikramāditya, king of Ujjain, in 57 B. C. This rests on the following verse of the Jyotirvidābharaṇa—

धन्वन्तरिचपणकामरसिहसङ्ग-
वेतालभट्टघटकपरकालिदासा ।
ख्यातो वराहमिहिरोत्पते सभायां
रत्नानि वै धरुचि नव विक्रमस्य ॥

The persons mentioned in the sloka flourished in ages separated by centuries, so no value can be attached to this. But it is sure that Kālidāsa lived in the court of a Vikrama. Whether this Vikrama is the name of a king or his title is not yet certain.

Sir William
Jones.

“If any historical records be true, we know with positive certainty that Amarasimha and Kālidāsa composed their works before the era of Christ ” (Asiatic Reserches)

Peterson.

“For it is certain now that Kālidāsa must be put earlier than has lately been generally supposed. He stands near the beginning of our era, if indeed he does not overtop it, and dates from the year one of Vikrama’s era”—
J B R A S

G R Nan-
dargkar.

“It is also probable, nay, almost certain that Kālidāsa, the Virgil of the Hindus, may have lived some fifty years before the beginning of the Christian era, and may also have

been a poet in the imperial court of Vikramāditya who began to reign from 57 B C *

Sir W. W Hunter in his 'Brief History of the Indian People' places Kālidāsa in 57 B C.

W. W
Hunter.

According to the opinion of Prof Weber Kālidāsa's three dramas were written at a period from the second to the 4th century of the Christian era Monier Williams and C. H. Tawney have accepted this view. Lassen also fixes the 3rd century A D to be the date of Kālidāsa

Weber, Mo
nier Willi-
ams and
C H. Taw-
ney

Prof Jacobi says that the author of the Raghuvamṣa and the Kumāra-sambhavam cannot have lived before 350 A D.

Jacobi

Prof. Macdonell in his, History of Sanskrit Literature fixes the probable date of Kālidāsa at the beginning of the fifth century

Macdonell

According to Maxmüller, as has been said in his renaissance theory, Kālidāsa lived in the sixth century A D

Maxmuller

Dr Bhau Dāji places Kālidāsa in the sixth century A D

Bhaudāji

Mr K B. Pāthaka and Mr Kern also accept the same view (6th century A D)

K B
Pāthak.

Mr R. C Datta in his 'Brief History of Ancient and Modern India' and M. M. Pandit Haraprasād Śāstri in his "A School history of India' have placed Kālidāsa and his patron Vikramāditya in the 6th century A.D.

R. C Datta
and H. P
Śāstri

Mrs Manning According to Mrs Manning Kālidāsa flourished about 502 A D

Wilson Prof Wilson places Kālidāsa in the 10th century A D. while Mr Bentley supposes the date to be the 12th century A D

S Roy. The late Mr S Ray, Principal of Vidyāsāgara College, has placed Kālidāsa in the B C He has further proved that the poet lived in the court of Agnimitra who owing to his great power was styled Vikrama and lived in the 2nd century B C. The learned commentator Kātyavarma also opines that Kālidāsa was a court poet of Agnimitra This is most probably a reasonable date of our great poet We give below the the summary of Prof. Roy's argument in his own words —

1 That neither Prof Maxmüller, nor Prof. Macdonell has given good reasons to disbelieve the tradition assigning 57 B C to Kālidāsa

Bhuta-medallian. 2 That from the Bhuta-medallian it ought to be obvious that that Kālidāsa lived before Christ.

Form and style. 3. That from the absence of artificiality in his style he appears to be older than the Girnar and Nasik inscriptions of the second century A. D This corroborates (2).

(4. 5.) That from the history of certain words, Sanskrit seems to have been the spoken language of the learned at the time of the

poet From the free use of Vedic forms in his writings he seems not to have been influenced by Pāṇini's grammar and to belong to the post-Pāṇinian period of transition from Vedic to Sanskrit literature which probably extended from 300 to 100 B C. This is another confirmation of (2)

6 That from allusions to Buddhism and its patronage by royalty in the *śakuntalam* the poet seems to have flourished soon after Aśoka This too points to the period 300 to 100 B C and confirms (2)

Allusions
to Buddha-
ism etc

7 That from considerations of style, and taste of our poet, he seems to have been older than Aśvaghoṣa, the Buddhist poet of the 2nd century A D, which again supports (2)

Style and
taste etc

Now let us discuss these conflicting theories regarding the age of our poet one after another

In Northern, Western, and Southern India there were several Vikramādityas from the first century before Christ to the Seventh after

Vikramā-
dityas

The discovery of the *Aihole* inscription and Vāṣa's mention of Kālidāsa in his *Hār-a-cārita* point to the seventh century A D as the downward limit of Kālidāsa's date. Thus the 10th and 12th century theories fall at once to the ground and require no further discussion

Aihole ins-
cription

Examination
of Karore
theory

Next comes the *Korore Theory* or the *Theory of Fergusson* Alberuni says that king Vikrama defeated the Mlecchas in the battle of Korore fought in the year 544 A D Fergusson holds, as said before, that Vikrama era was founded to commemorate this victory dating its beginning 600 years back at 56 B C The theory on the very face of it is impossible and childish Western India having come under the control of Gupta kings before the 6th century A D, the Scythians could not have been driven out of it at that time by Vikrama Besides, with the discovery, of the *Mandasor* inscription the theory of Karore collapses The theory of Dignāga and Kālidāsa's indebtedness to Ārya Bhatta have also shared the same fate with the Korore theory as has been shown before

Vikramā-
ditya, the
royal patron
of Kālidāsa

From the beginning of the fourth century to the middle of the fifth there were several Vikramādityas amongst the Imperial Gupta's of Northern India Of these Candragupta I and Candragupta II have a fair claim to be this Vikramāditya The latter was a Hindu monarch when Buddhism was on the decline and Hinduism had already been reviving But they never seem to have made Ujjayini as their capital Their Capital Pāṭliputra and Kausāmbī are not mentioned by Kālidāsa Their successor Skandagupta, the

last king of the line, is supposed by some to be Vikrama finding the inroads of Huna host in his kingdom under Toramana. Seeing the name of the Hunas in the Raghuvamśa Mr K B Pāthak also lays much stress on the sixth century theory. But Prof Apte has discussed all these points at great length and shown that the Hunas established a powerful empire from the middle of the 3rd century B C to the end of 1st or 2nd century A D just beyond Bactria.

History does not supply us with any king of the name and fame of Vikramāditya in the first three centuries of the Christian era and there is no material sufficiently strong to enable us to discard the tradition altogether, according to which Vikramāditya, the royal patron of Kālidāsa, lived in 56 B C.

Time of this
royal patron

In the first century B C the powerful ruling dynasties of India were—(1) the Sungas (2) the Andhras and (3) the Kānvas. The existence of Vikramāditya Śakāri in the first century B C does not seem to be a myth altogether. There is mention of a Śakāri king in the Nāsik inscription of the first century A D, and we can place Kālidāsa in his court. We give below the arguments supporting this B C. theory as can be gathered from what has been discussed before along with some new additions.

The powerful
dynas-
ties ruling
in the first
century B. C.

(1) Batsabhattacharya, the author of Mandasor inscription, discovered by Mr Fleet of Bombay Civil Service, lived in 472 A. D. The author of this inscription copies several ideas from Kālidāsa and the latter must therefore have lived before the former

(2) Aśvaghoṣa's Buddha Carit having some passages similar with Raghu and Kumāra some suppose that Kālidāsa took his cue from Aśvaghoṣa, but Kālidāsa was an original poet while Aśvaghoṣa was more a philosopher than a poet. Therefore it seems more probable that the latter borrowed his ideas from the former. The date of Aśvaghoṣa being 125 A. D., Kālidāsa must have flourished before that time provided the former conjecture is true.

(3) The terra-cotta medallion of Bhita in Allahabad (mentioned by Principal Roy at first) is almost a fac-simile of a portion of the first act of Śakuntalā. The medallion, as the discoverer of it says, belongs to the Sunga kings who reigned before the Christian era. There being no contrary proof as to its being a representation from some other book, we may take Śakuntalā as belonging to a period before Christ

(4) Some internal evidences, too, point to the above conclusion

(a) The passage from *Sakuntala*—
 “धनमित्रो नैव्यसनमापन्नो राजगामो तच्च विषय” —
 shows that the wife could not inherit
 the property of her husband at that time The
 passage—“आत्मनोवधमर्हत्” in the *Vikramorvasī*
 shows that at the time of Kālidāsa
 thieves were chastised with capital punishment
 These laws were prevalent in Manu’s time who
 flourished in the 3rd century B C This
 practice vanished before the time of Brhaspati
 belonging to the 1st century B C or 1st
 century A D

Internal evi-
 dences—rites
 and customs

The absence of reference to the Nyāya
 philosophy, says Mr Apte, in Kālidāsa’s works
 (excepting *Raghu XIII I* and *Sakuntala*—intro-
 ductory verse, which even might be borrowed
 from Sāṅkhya) shows that he must have lived
 before the development of that branch of
 science Besides, the artificiality of diction,
 the fondness for long compounds, elaborate
 comparisons and ambiguous words which are
 found in the works of Daṇḍī, Bāṇa, Subandhu,
 Bhababhūti, and other mediaeval writers of the
 7th century A D, are entirely absent in Kāli-
 dāsa’s writings The one literary fashion, he
 says, cannot be supplanted by another in a
 short period of time This according to him
 took at least some six or seven centuries

Kālidāsa
 knowledge
 of philoso-
 phy

In *Raghu* (VI 59-60) the poet mentions
 Urugapura as the capital of the Pāṇḍyas

Raghuvamśa
on the date
of Kālidāsa.

These Pāṇdyas according to Dr. V. A. Smith were one of the Dravidian races who fought amongst one another for supremacy. This is corroborated by the text of the Mahābhārata (II 52 35), but the Rāmāyaṇa gives prominence to the Pāṇdyas alone (IV 41). It is known from history that this supremacy of the Pāṇdyas was overthrown by Karikala about 1st century A. D. Karikala, it is said, removed his capital from Uragpur to Kaveṇī-pattanam. After him the Pāṇdyas again recovered their position in the reign of possible Nedumcheliyan and had their capital at Madura about 300 A. D. to the close of their rule. This fact also supports B. C. theory.

Considering all these arguments it will not be unreasonable to place Kālidāsa between 300 B. C. and 100 B. C.

The Mahākāvya

The Rāmāyaṇa the earliest artificial epic, was succeeded by a number of kāvyas ranging from the fifth to the twelfth century A. D.

Raghu and
Kumār
compared

The two most important Kāvya are Kālidāsa's Raghuvamśam and Kumārasambhavam. They have several stanzas in common, some, though differing in expression, are strikingly analogous in thought. Both the poems have same metre when they describe the same thought.

(1) *The Raghuvamśam*—The Raghuvamśam consisting of nineteen cantos describes the life of Rāma together with an account of his forefathers and successors. The story agrees closely with that in the Rāmāyaṇa of Vālmīki whom Kālidāsa speaks of as the “first poet”. The names of the successors of Rāma agree closely with those in the list given in the Viṣṇu purāṇa.

Subject
matter

The narrative in the Raghuvamśa moves with some rapidity. It abounds with apt and striking similes and contains much that is genuine poetry. The style for a kāvya is simple.

Critical
estimate.

More than twenty commentaries on the Raghuvamśa are known. The most famous is the Sañjivani of Mallinātha. He, to the best of his power, finds out and preserves the readings of the poet himself. Of the number of commentators known to him, he mentions the names of Dakṣināvarta and Nātha. Among the other extant commentaries Subodhini deserves mention.

Commen-
tators.

(2) *The Kumārasambhavam*—Kumārasambhavam has seventeen cantos. The first seven are entirely devoted to the courtship and wedding of Śiva and Pārvatī, daughter of Himālaya. The rich imaginative power and striking originality of the poem find their free scope here. It is conspicuous for its wealth of illustrations.

Subject
matter and
critical
estimate.

First eight
cantos form
the new whole
of the work
—other can-
tos are latter
additions.

It is believed by many scholars that the first eight cantos of the book were written by Kālidās, the remaining chapters were added to them subsequently. The name of the book also favours the conjecture. The birth of Kārtikeya is the subject matter of the book. Gods cherished a great doubt in their minds if Śiva could be induced to marry Pārvatī and for this they tried their utmost and at last succeeded in their attempts. The seventh act describes the marriage of Pārvatī and herein is found the germ of the future birth of Kārtikeya, but to make the sense complete the poet perhaps wrote the next chapter which describes the dalliance of Pārvatī with Śiva. But Vidyāsāgar in his 'Discourse on the Sanskrit Language and Literature' says that all the seventeen cantos were written by Kalidās and that they exhibit every sign of his writing. This view is certainly open to criticism. Style of the first eight cantos is quite different from that of the remaining cantos. Metrical defects, which are unknown to Kalidasa's composition, abound in the latter part of Kumar Sambhavam. Besides, no rhetoricians has taken any example of figures from those cantos.

Estimate of
Kumar

Like Raghuvamsam Kumara Sambhavam also has striking similes and abounds with genuine poetry. The style is simple and diction elegant. The description is beautiful and unique.

(3) *Bhatti*—*Bhatti Kāvya* is a poem containing twenty two cantos. The historical basis of this *Kāvya* is the *Rāmāyana* itself. It has the single hero *Dhīrodatta* Rama. The principal sentiment is heroic. The concluding verses in each canto are a sort of introduction to the incidents of the next. The metrical structure of the verses varies in each canto. The poem opens with an introduction of the subject matter in the shape of an account of the hero's birth. Thus it conforms with the rules of a *mahākāvya*.

The body of the book—its subject matter

The tradition regarding the composition of the poem is, that once while the poet was teaching his pupils grammar, an elephant happened to pass between them causing a year's suspension of the grammatical studies. During this period the poem was composed as a contrivance to keep up the study of grammar.

Story regarding its composition

The Book is divided into four chapters called *Prakīrṇa*, *Tinanta*, *Adhikār* and *Prasanna*. The first extends over the better part of the work. The second extends over the whole of the work beginning from the fourteenth canto, the third comprises the three cantos beginning from the seventh and deals with the grammatical rules in connection with *ṣatva*, *ṣatva*, *kāraṇa*, *ātmanepada*, *parasmapada*, *kṛt* etc. The last four chapters treat of figures and

Division of the book

charms of poetry These four Kāṇḍas are again subdivided into sections called Pariccheda and Varga

Its another
name

It is otherwise known as Rāvanabadham or Rāmāvadānam after the plot of the epic

Authorship
of the work

Author of the poem — The very name of the Kāvya indicates that it is the work of a poet, Bhatti by name. But there are scholars who think that Bhatti is a corruption for Bhartrihari or Bhattanāyāyāna who is the author of the book. It is very difficult to say who this Bhatti was and when he flourished. There being no genuine history of Sanskrit authors we are to depend entirely on their writings and on the writings of their contemporaries to ascertain their age and birth place etc.

Internal
evidence,

The concluding stanzas of the poem (22-35) say that the poet composed his work at Balavi that was under the sway of Śrīdhara Sen, whose history is unfortunately wrapt in obscurity. Jaymangal, one of the commentators of Bhatti Kāvya, attributes the authorship to the renowned grammarian Bhatta. He believes that the author was a son of Śrī Svāmī and lived at Balavi. Bharata Mallik, another commentator of the poem, holds that Bhatrhari, the elder brother of king Vikramaditya of Ujjain, is the author of this Kāvya.

He was a great grammarian and a poet. Bhatti only is a contraction of the above mentioned name. The suggestion seems to be possible. Bhartṛhari not only composed *Satakas* (Nīti, Śrngāra, Vairāgya) but *Vākyapadīya* also, which is a grammatical treatise explaining in brief the *Mahābhāṣya* of Patañjali. The present *Kāvya* also illustrates the important rules of Pāṇini. So, it is not unjust to think that the epic is supplementary to his former work. As there is nothing to show that Bhattanārāyana lived at Balavī—we reject his authorship.

Personal
history of
the poet—
his learning

The above view is supported by the great grammarians Kaiyata and Mādhavācāryya, but Bhattoji Dīkṣit takes Bhartṛhari and Bhatti as different persons in his *Manoramā*. Besides, in the *Bhāgavṛtti*, a comment on Pāṇini's system composed about 625 A D, by Bhartṛhari, is found a verse quoted from the Bhatti *Kāvya* for showing its fault. So, Bhatti can never be identified with Bhartṛhari.

Identifica-
tion of the
poet

Now Bhartṛhari, the author *Vākyapadīya* is posterior to 180 B C when *Mahābhāṣya* was written. It is seen from history that Balavī dynasty reigned about 426 A D and that Vikramāditya defeated the Hunas at Karore in 544 A D. So, Bhartṛhari may be placed between 425 and 544 A D. Bhatti too had a *tikā* on the *Mahābhāṣya* which is prior to *Vākyapadīya*. So the author

Date of the
poet

may safely be placed at about 400 A D
The style and diction of the book too points
to the same conclusion

Though a grammatical treatise the work is
not bereft of genuine poetry The charming
description of the autumn and the playing on
words are indeed a great compliment to the poet

Rāvanārjuna
nīyam

Bhaumaka's Rāvanārjunīyam deserves men-
tion in this connection It is a grammatical
Kāvya in 27 cantos describing the strife be-
tween Kārtavīrjyārjuna and Rāvaṇa and illus-
trates the rules of grammar like Bhaṭṭi Kāvya
but unfortunately falls below its model

Subject
matter

4 *Kirātārjunīyam* —In the field of kāvya
the place of Bhāravi is next to Kālidāsa The
subject matter of the book has been derived
from the Vanaparva of the Mahābhārata It
describes in eighteen cantos the contest be-
tween Arjuna and Śiva disguised as a fowler,
when the former gave himself up to severe
penance at the foot of the Himālayas Mahādev
being pleased with Arjuna to see his skill in
archery bestowed on him the famous Pāsupata
weapon Agni and other gods too awarded him
with several efficacious weapons and a chariot
The fifteenth canto of the poem shows all
kinds of verbal tricks like those described
in Daṇḍi's Kāvyaādarsa According to in-
digenous Pandits the verses of Kirātārjunīyam
are fraught with deep significance (*Vāraver-*

artha gauṇavam) The poet himself too speaks of his composition as '*Prasannagambhīrapada Sarsvatī*.' The dominant sentiment of the poem is heroic. The descriptions of the autumn, the Himālaya Mountain, the rising of the moon, the dawn etc, is indeed charming and can be compared with that of Kālidās. According to Western scholars deterioration of Sanskrit poem begins from the time of Bhāravi.

Critical
estimate

Kāśikā Vitti of Jayāditta and Vāman written about seventh century A D quotes Bhāravi. The whole inscription has the name of Kālidās and Bhāravi put together — स विजयते रविकीर्त्तिं कवितायित कालिदासभारविकीर्त्तिं. The dates of the inscription is 634 A D. If we place the poet a century earlier than this date then it would not be unwise to take his time to be the earlier part of the sixth century A D.

Date of the
poet

5 *Śiśupāla Badham* — This describes in 20 cantos how Śiśupāla, King of Cedi, was slain by Viṣṇu. It goes also by the name of Māgha Kāvya after its author who lived perhaps in the 9th century A D. It has striking similarities with Bhāravi's *Kirātārjunīyam*. The very plot and the diction of the poem show that the author was much influenced by Bhāravi.

Subject
matter

According to Bhoja Prabandha Māgha was a contemporary of King Bhoja of

Date of
the poet

Dhārā. Ananda Vardhan of the 9th century quotes Māgha in his Dhvanyāloka Mr, Duff believes that Māgha flourished about 860 A D Considering all these points the poet may be placed between the eighth and ninth century A D

The wide range of knowledge of the poet is apparent everywhere in his poem His style is similar to that of Bhāravi and is less stiff than Harsa

Subject
matter

6 *The Naisadha Caritam* — This is held in high esteem by all Indian Pandits It describes the story Nala, King of Nisadha and his love to Damayanti, the princess of Vidarbha The message of the lover through the swan is beautifully depicted in it. The present work containing twenty two cantos describes Damayanti's marriage by self choice Tradition says that once it contained one hundred and twenty cantos Harsa is the author of the work We find in the body of the book that he wrote several other poems also The work abounds in mythology and pictures of the society of his time It is famous for its sweet and melodious diction (नैष वै पदलालित्यम्) The style is not simple but cumbrous and ambiguous It is a stumbling block even to an erudite

Other
Works

Of his other works the Khaṇḍanakhaṇḍa khādy a criticism on the works of Udayan,

Gaudor-viśakula-Prasāti, Canda-Prasasti (the panegyrics on his royal patrons) Arnavavarṇana, Śiva Bhakti Siddhi and Sāhsāṅka carit are important. He flourished probably by the latter half of the twelfth century A. D.

These six artificial epics are recognised as mahākāvya and all of these have been commented upon by Mallinātha. Of these the first three are termed Bṛhatṭrayī, while the last three are known as Laghutrayī.

Mahākāvya.

7. *The Harakāvya*—The Harakāvya is an extensive Mahākāvya in fifty cantos. This according to Kalhana was written by Ratnākara towards the close of the 9th century A. D.

Harakāvya.

He lived under Avantī Varmā according to Kalhana. But according to his own statements he was a servant of Jayāpīda. He wrote also Vakrokti Pañcāsika, and Dhvanīgāthā Pañcīkā, the former is a collection of crooked sayings passing between Śiva and Pārvatī.

The author of the work.

8. *The Nalodayam*—The Nalodayam, an epic, though attributed to Kālidāsa, is unmistakably a product of a much later age.

Nalodaya

9. *Satrunjayamāhātyam*—It is a poem of 14 cantos describing the love-stories of fictitious persons. The author Dhvanesvar lived under king Śilāditya or Śriharṣa who reigned in Kanauj from 605 to 615 A. D.

Satrunjaya-māhātyam

Subject matter 10 *Rāghava Pāṇḍavīyam* —Kavirāja, the author of the *Rāghava-Pāṇḍavīyam*, flourished about 800 A D The ślokas are composed in such a way that they tell the story of the Rāmāyaṇa and of the Mahābhārata at one and the same time

Date of the poet The name of the poet appears more to be a surname than the name proper According to Duff's chronology Śruta-kīrti is the author of the poem who is mentioned in an inscription dated 1130 A D If this be true the poet must have lived between tenth and the eleventh century A D

Subject matter and date of the poem 11 *The Nava Sāhasāṅkacarit* —The author was a court poet of king Muñjā (974—994) and Sindhurāj (995-1010) So the work was composed towards the close of the tenth century It is a poem in 11 cantos and is otherwise called Parimal It alludes to the history of Sindurāj, king of Mālava It also furnishes us with the mythical account of the princess Śasiprabhā

Subject matter 12 *Janakīharanam* —The author of the poem is Kumār Dās, king of Ceylon, of the sixth century A D The poem describes in 15 cantos the beauty of Ayodhyā and carries it uptill Rāma's marriage in details. The remaining portion completes the stories abruptly in a few chapters The poet was an admirer of Kālidās and imitated him in style, subject-matter and the use of the figures of speech It is said that the book was at first complete in 25 cantos.

13. *Kumāra Pāla Caritam* —It was written by Hemcandra who was born in 1088 A D He was a Jaina monk and through his influence Jainism was encouraged and a number of Vihāras was constructed The book gives the history of Anhilvid princes in details and ends with an eulogy to Kumāra Pāla. It has twenty-eight cantos of which the first twenty are written in Sanskrit and last eight in Prakrit and for this reason it is called (द्वात्रिंश काव्य)

Subject matter and date

The work illustrates his Sūtras Hem Candra was not only a poet but also a grammarian, lexicographer and rhetorician Among his works the Abhidhān Cintāmaṇi, Deśināmamālā and Alankār Cūḍāmaṇi deserve mention

His other works

14. *Dharma Sarmābhyudaya* :—Hari Candra the author of the poem who belonged to the Digambara Jaina sect describes in 21 cantos the life of Dharmānath, the fifteenth Tīrathankara Mention of this is found in the first act of Rāja Śekhara's Karpūra Mañjarī, who lived in the ninth century A D Therefore the time of the poet would be about eighth century A. D

Date and subject matter

15. *Kādambarī Kathā Sār* :—It is an epitome of the story of Vāṇa's Kādambarī in verse by Abhinanda. He was a Kāśmīrian

Date and
subject ma-
tter

poet and his fourth ancestor lived in the court of Muktāpīd (726 A. D) He was patronised by Haravarsa, a descendant of Dharma Pāl He can safely be placed in the earlier part of the ninth century A. D

Date and
subject ma-
tter

16 *Kaphanābhyudaya* —It is found in manuscript The name of the author is Bhatta Śiva Swāmī He is quoted in Vallabha Deva's Subhāṣitāvalī He was one of the court poets of Avantī Varmā of Kāśmīr (855—884 A. D) This poem closely follows Śisupāl Vadham in diction and style

Bhārata
Māñjarī,
Rāmāyana
Māñjarī and
Bihat kathā
Māñjarī—
their date
and subject
matter

17 *Bhārat Māñjarī* —It is a summary, written in easy poetry, of the eighteen parvas of the Mahābhārata of Vyāsa by Kṣemendra, a Kashmirian poet, who lived under the patronage of king Ananta, who reigned about 1050 A. D He wrote also Rāmāyana Māñjarī that summarises the seven kāndas of Vālmīki's work in easy Sanskrit His Vṛhat Kathā Māñjarī translates into classical Sanskrit, the Vṛhat Kathā of Guṇādhyāya, which is supposed to have been written in the Pāṣaṇī Prākṛit. In his translation he has not omitted even the minor incidents of the original The style of the book is simple and smooth and resembles that of Bilhana He wrote besides Lāvanya-vatī and Muktāvalī—two short poems and Daśāvatāra Carit, the last describes the ten incarnations of Viṣṇu. *भूतभाषामयीं प्राहुः अद्भुतार्थो वृहत्कथाम्—काव्यादर्श ।

His other
works

tions of Viṣṇu

18 *Vikramāṅka Deva Carit* —It narrates in eighteen cantos the life-sketch of Vikrama, the patron of the Bilhana, the poet. The patron of the poet according to General Cunningham Ham reigned from 1028 to 1088 A. D. His work describes a Cola War. Bilhan speaks of Bhoja of Dhārā as his contemporary. As a poet he ranks very high. There are many beautiful passages in the work, one of which is the most touching description of Ahava malla's death. His verse is sweet and flowing and his language clear and simple.

Date and
subject
matter

19 *Soma Pal Vilās* :—This describes the life of king Soma Pāl of Rājapuri in Kāśmīr. The king was defeated by Sussala in 1118 A. D., and the work must therefore have been written by the first half of the twelfth century. Monkha, a contemporaneous poet, speaks of him as the author of a short poem called *Mugthopadeśa*.

Date and
subject
matter

20 *Jayantavijaya* —It is a poem written by Abhaya Deva. He flourished about 1148 A. D. The book in 19 cantos describes the Victory of King Jayanta over his enemies.

Subject matter and
date

21. *Bhuvanābhyaśaya*—The author of the book is one Śankuka. The poem describes the dreadful battle between Mamma and Utpala, which was fought in 850 A. D. It is said

Date and
subject ma-
tter.

that the current of the Vitasta was stemmed by the dead bodies of the soldiers

Date and
subject ma-
tter

22 *Surathotsava*—The poem was written by Someśvar Dāṭṭa who lived towards the close of the twelfth century. The book describes in fifteen cantos the history of Suratha of the Caitra race, but it depicts simultaneously the political history of the reign of Vāstupāla allegorically.

Date and
subject ma-
tter.

23. *Sukṛt Saṅkīrtan*—It is a poem in eleven cantos by Ari Simha who flourished in the thirteenth century A. D. The Book is important historically as it affords us with informations how Someśvar Dev was overpowered by his enemy.

Date and
subject ma-
tter

24 *Rāmpāl Carit*—It is a poem by Sāndhyākar Nandī. It describes the feats of Rāmpāl, the powerful king of Bengal, who recovered his ancestral kingdom from the hands of Bhīma and conquered Mithilā. He reigned from 1084 to 1130 A. D.

Date and
subject ma-
tter

25. *Śrīkantha Carit*—It was written by Mankhadās between 1135–45 A. D. It describes in 25 cantos how Tripura was killed by Mahādev. The description of Kailās, Śiva, spring season, sport in water, rising of the moon etc, is very charming and occupies the first twelve cantos of the book. The remaining cantos give the preparation for the

war, the array of Śiva's soldiers and the fight between Śiva and Tripura. The last chapter has the description of his brother's court.

26 *Setubandha*—It is ascribed to Kālidāsa, but most probably it was written by the Kāśmīrean poet, Pravarasen, who succeeded Mātr Gupta. The epic in Prākṛit describes the construction of the bridge over the sea by Rāma and the destruction of Rāvana. This was written perhaps to commemorate the building of a bridge of boats across the Jhelum (वितस्ता) by the royal poet himself.

Subject matter.

27 *Yudhisthira Vijaya*—This was written by Vāsudeva in the twelfth century A D. The book has eight chapters and the subject-matter has been derived from the Mahābhārata.

Date and subject matter.

28 *Bala Bhārata*—It was written by Amar Candrar about the middle of the thirteenth century A D. The author was a powerful poet. The story of the Mahābhārata is narrated in the order of the parvas here. He wrote besides Chando Ratnāvalī and Jinendra Caritam.

Date and Subject matter.

29 *Candra Prabhā Carit*—It is a poem in 17 cantos by Vira Nandī who flourished in the thirteenth century A D. The book begins with a description of king Kanak Prabhā and his line and ends with Indra's incarnation.

Subject matter and the Date.

as Jina The tenet of the Jaina religion has been summarised in the last canto

Date and
Subject matter

30 *Ṣaḥrdayānanda*—The poet gives an account of Nala, King of Nisad Kṛṣṇānanda, the author, flourished about thirteenth century A D He is quoted by Viśvanāth in his *Sāhitya Darpana* and is known to have commented on the *Naiṣadha Carit*

Date and
Subject matter

31 *Jadavābhyudaya and Pāduhāsahāsra*—Of Vedānta Desika, who lived between 1268—1376, are good poems The former describes the advent and life of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the latter constitutes of one thousand verses in praise of Rāma's sandals The poet was a follower of the Rāmānuja school and his image is worshipped even to this day. He was a scholar and a poet and was conversant with every branch of art or literature For this reason he acquired the title of सर्वज्ञसूतन

Date and
Subject matter

32 *Kārttavīrya Vijayam*—This was written by Candrar Cūda towards the close of the 15th century A D The poem in 14 cantos describes the story of Kārttavīrya The work is characterised by grace and melody

Date and
Subject matter.

33 *Harivamśasār Carit*—It was written by Govinda in the 17th century A D The poem in 23 cantos describes the story of Harivamśa The language of the poem is unrestrained and natural and is indeed an improvement upon its original

34 *Rāmacandrodaya*—It is a long poem of 30 cantos by Venkatesvar describing the history of Rāmcandra. It was composed in 1645 A D

Date and
Subject ma-
tter.

35 *Śivalīlānava*—It was composed by Nilkantha in the first half of the 17th century A D. The poem in 22 cantos describes the history and actions of Śiva. His Gangāvataran, a poem, consisting of eight cantos, narrates the story of the descent of the Ganges through the effort of Bhagīrath.

Date and
Subject ma-
tter

He wrote several other minor poems, of which the Kalī Viḍambanam, Sabhārañjanam and Anyāpadeśa Śatakam deserve mention. As a poet Nilkantha ranks very high. He is highly imaginative and his language is very natural.

His other
works

36 *Abdullā caritam*—This describes the life of the king-maker Sayyid Abdullā. The author Lakṣmīpati lived after the death of Aurangzeb. There is a frequent influx of Persian words in it.

Subject ma-
tter

37 *Harsa Carit Cintāmanī*—It was written by Jayrath in the 12th century A D. It is a store-house of Śaiva myths and evidences of Śaiva faith and belief.

Date and
Subject ma-
tter

38 *Gauda Vaha*—It was written by Vāk-patīrāj. The language of the book is Prākṛt. It describes the defeat and death of a Gauda

king by Yasovarmā of Kanauj This Yośovarmā was overthrown and killed by Lalitāditya, king of Kāśmīr about 740 A D,

Date and
Subject matter

39 *Kīrtitī Kaumudī* — It was written by Someśvara in the last part of the twelfth century or about the middle of the thirteenth century The book describes the greatness of a Cālukya prince

THE PROSE ROMANCES

A Short notice of prose

We first meet with prose in the Yajurveda and after it in some portions of the Atharva Veda After the vedic period we meet with prose in the Brāhmanas, especially in those of the Rik Veda The निरुक्त of वाङ्म (who according to Prof Gold Stuker and Dr Vincent Smith flourished about eighth century B C) is written in a very sweet and placid prose The commentaries on Indian philosophies written by Śaṅkar, Rāmanuj, Vācaspati Miśra, Śaṅkar Svāmī, and others are good specimens of old Sanskrit prose The Mahābhāṣya of Patañjali written about 200 B. C has also lucid and simple Sanskrit Carak, Śuśrut and some other medical treatises too have prose portions in them The prose of the Mahābhārata and of some Purāṇas and Dharma Śāstras also deserve mention in this connection Of the Purāṇas, the Viṣṇu Purāṇa has the oldest prose writing

1. *Daśakumāra Caritam* — Daṇḍī is the

author of this book, who flourished about 6th century A D. Some scholars identify him with the author of Kāvyaḍarsa, while others raise a dispute and say that the writer of the Daśakumāra Caritam can not be the writer of the Kāvyaḍarsa, as the former book does not conform to the rules laid down in the latter. But this only should not be taken as a criterion for such a remark. From the time of Kāvyaḍarsa and the style followed in the Daśakumācaritam it seems to be probable that both the works were written about the same time (6th century A D). There being no other prominent poets at that time excepting this Daṇḍi, who composed Kāvyaḍarsa, we may take unhesitatingly that he was the author of both the books.

Daṇḍi—
his date and
identification

Daśakumāra Carit may be classed under Ākhyāyikā. It is not complete. The book, as we find it, is divided into two sections called 'Pūrvapīṭhikā' and 'Uttarapīṭhikā'. The Pūrvapīṭhikā has described in five chapters the adventures of two Kumāras and the Uttarapīṭhikā has the unfinished tale of Viśruta. It is supposed by many a scholar that these two sections were added to the original by some other persons after the death of Daṇḍi.

Daśakumār
carit—its
division

The plot of the book is as follows —

Rājahansa, the king of Magadha, betook

Story of
Daśakumār
carit

himself to the Vindhya mountain being defeated by the king of Malawa. The queen consort gave birth to a son called Rāja Vāhana there. It so chanced that nine sons were born to the king's ministers and friends at the same time and they were brought before the king. These ten boys lived and grew together and learnt the Śāstras and the use of weapons from expert teachers. Being asked by a disciple of the sage Vāma Deva, the king, sent Rāja Vāhana with his nine friends for the conquest of the world. They started and came to a deep forest and lived there for a night. At dead of night, when all the boys fell asleep, a hunter came to Rāja Vāhana and asked him to help him in getting the kingdom of the nether world. Rāja Vāhana consented and followed him to the nether world. There performing some magical charms as instructed by Mahādeva in the dream of the hunter, he was able to marry Kālindī, the daughter of the demon king and got from her a jewel as a present. One wearing this jewel would not suffer from hunger, thirst or any sort of privations. Rāja Vāhan now started for that forest and was rewarded with that jewel by the hunter as a token of love for him and for the benefit he rendered to him. Raja Vāhan came to the spot but to his utter disappointment could not find any of his comrades there. After a time

they met together perchance and related their own adventures Each of these tales is full of wonderful action and describes the vitiated state and the taste of the society of the time The power of description of the author is, indeed, very high and charming The Vaidarvī style is predominant though interspersed with Gaudī style The work abounds in figures of speech and has the sweetness of diction

Literary
estimate.

2 Vāsavadattā—This is written by Subandhu who lived in the middle of the 7th century A D He like Mentha and Vāna was skilful in using ambiguous diction Vāna, the author of Kādambarī and Harsa Carit, holds him in high esteem His Atidvayī kathā refers to Vāsava-Dettā* and Brhatkathā There was another Vasavadattā also written by Kātyāna as mentioned in the Mahābhāṣya The expression “बौद्धसङ्गतिमिवाण्डूतभूषिताम्” certainly refers to the work, Baudhasangatyalaṅkāra of Dharma Kīrti. Besides, it refers to Udyotakar also as can be inferred from the expression—“न्यायस्थितिमिवोद्योतकरस्वरूपम्” । Both these authors lived in the 6th century A D So, the time given to our author is not impossible The plot of the book is given in brief below :—

The author
—his time.

King Cintāmanī had a beautiful son, named Kandarpaketu Once he saw Vāsava-

* कवीनामगणत् दर्पो नूनं वासदत्तया ।

Story of the
book

dattā in dream and set out with his friend Makaranda in quest of this unknown girl. While living in the Vindhya he comes to learn from the conversation of an indignant Mayna bird and her husband that Vāsavadattā, the beautiful daughter of Śrngāra Śekhar of Puspapur, had a charming vision of a youth of peerless beauty and sent her confidant Tamālikā to bear to the youth her faith and the difficulty in their union at Puspapur. The king wearied at the unwedded condition of his daughter wanted to marry her with the Vidyādhara chief, Puspaketu. Kandarpaketu went with his friend and met Vāsavadattā secretly. Both of them fell in love with each other at the first sight. Advised by Kalāvati, the handmaid of Vāsavadattā, the lovers fled to the Vindhya hill by means of a magic horse and fell asleep there. Kandarpaketu awoke and to his utter despair could not find Vāsavadattā there. He wailed in various ways and went here and there in search of her. At last he came to a deep forest and found the stone-statue of Vāsavadattā. In his ecstasy he touched the statue, which at once assumed the form of Vāsavadattā and related how through the curse of the sage of the grove she turned to a stone-statue. The book abounds with long compounds and ambiguous diction.

3 *Harsa Carit*:—Vānabhaṭṭa has written two famous prose romances—Harsa Carit and Kādambari

Harsa Carit seems to be his first work In the introductory verses of the book he has named some famous poets and their works From those verses we come to learn that the fame of poets Bhāsa, Kālidās, Pravarā Sen, Śāta Vāhan, Hari Candra and Subandhu spread throughout the country at that time The poet was an early friend of Harsa Vardhan (Śilāditya) of Kanauj (606—667 A D) and his court poet The book is famous historically as it gives the life-sketch of king Harsa and a sort of the poet's autobiography The work, though full of long of compounds and obscure passages yet, betrays the great power of description of the poet

Poet Vāna
and his
Harsacarit.

Its impor
tance

4 *Kādambari*:—In the introductory verses of this book the poet gives a short description of his family. It is divided into two parts, the first part was written by the poet himself and the second by his son Bhusan Vāṇbhata. The work falls under the section of Kāvyas called Kathā. The subject matter of the book was taken from the Bṛhat Kathā of Guṇādhyāyā. The plot of the book is as follows.

Introduction
of the work

Once a Candal girl came to the court of King Śūdraka with a parrot confined in a cage. The parrot described its life story.

Story of the
book

Tārāpīḍ, King of Ujjainī, had a minister Śukanās by name. Both the king and the minister had no issue. But in course of time through the grace of God there was born a son to Tārāpīḍ named Candrapīḍ. Śukanās too had Vaisampāyan as his son at the same time. Candrapīḍ and Vaisampāyana were great friends. They grew together and brought up under the royal care. When they finished their study, Candrapīḍ got a horse Indrāyudha by name from his father. Tārāpīḍ made princess called Patralekhā captive in a war and this Patralekhā attended upon Candrapīḍ constantly. Śukanās made Candrapīḍ conversant with politics. And the king sent them with a large army for the conquest of the world. After a time the prince occupied the fort of the Kīrātās situated on the summit of the Hemakūt mountain.

Story of
Mahāśvetā

Once following a Kinnara pair, Candrapīḍ fell off from his army and went astray. Being unable to find out his path he wanted to pass his night on the bank of a beautiful lake. When he lay there a beautiful tone

entered into his ears and pursuing it he reached a temple of Śiva lying by There he found an ascetic girl, Mahāśvetā by name, who being asked by the prince related her piteous tale to him. Once she loved Pundarik who died an untimely death. She wanted to follow him in his funeral pyres but ceased from her attempt on hearing a voice from heaven that they would be re-united soon. With the hope of this re-union she was passing her days in that way.

Mahāśvetā had a bosom friend Kādambarī by name who too resolved not to marry if Mahāśvetā would not change her mind. Mahāśvetā took Candrāpīḍ to Kādambarī and they fell in love with each other. Candrāpīḍ being commanded by his father had to return to Ujjayini. Here ends the first part.

Story of
Kādambarī

In the second part Bhusaṇa Vāna Bhatta has brought about the union of Kādambarī with Candrāpīḍ and that of Pundarik with Mahāśvetā.

Marriage of
Kādambarī
and
Mahāśvetā.

The book is full of long compounds and ambiguous terms. The skill of narration is found at every step. Prof. Wilson has described it as a deep forest with thorny shrubs barring the entrance of the reader to it.

Critical es-
timate.

Kādambari
kathā-sār

5 Abhinanda, son of Jayanta Bhatta of *Kāsmir* who lived in the ninth century A D had given the essence of the above work in beautiful prose called *Kādambari Kathāsār* He speaks of him as contemporaneous with Rāja Śekhara

Subject ma-
tter

6 *Tilak Mañjarī*—In the earlier part of the eleventh century Dhanapāl wrote this book The book has derived its name from *Tilak Mañjarī* its heroine The poet has imitated Vānabhatta at every step both in diction and subject matter, but his attempts are a complete failure

Date and
Subject ma-
tter

7. *Bhoja Prabandha*—It was written by Vallala most probably in the 16th century A D It gives the life-sketch of king Bhoja of Dhārā who was famous for his munificence, learning and encouragement for learning The poet makes Kālidās a contemporary of Bhoja The book has no historical value

N B—Besides we have *Dvātrīṃṣat Puttalikā* (it is ascribed to Kālidāsa) and *Vetāl Pañca Viṃṣati* written in prose

CAMPU

The Champu is a kind of elaborate and highly artificial composition which is in prose and in verse, both intermingled. This sort of composition is not met with before the tenth century A. D. The *Vikrām*

A short no-
tion of Champu

Bhattā wrote Nala Campū and Madālasa Campū at the earlier part of the tenth century A D. It is said that he lived during the reign of the Rāstra Kūta King, Indra

The Jibandhar Campū of Hari Candra was perhaps written towards the close of the tenth century. This Hari Candra is not identical with one mentioned by Vāna in his Harsa Carit. Soma Deva's Jasastilaka Campū was written about the same time

Jibandhar
campū

The Rāmāyaṇa Campū of Bhoja Rāja was composed in the eleventh century A D. This Campū is otherwise known as Bhoja Campū after its author. According to Prof Keith it was composed after the reign of Bhoja.

The Rāmā-
yaṇa or
Bhojacampū

The Gopal Campū was written by Jīva Gosvāmī in the sixteenth century A D

Gopal campū

The Nīlakāṇtha Vijay Campū of Nīl-
kāṇtha was written about 1637 A D. It is
an important work of the Vaiṣṇava section.
Besides we have Campū Bhāgavat of Abhinā-
va Kālidās (fifteenth century A. D.), Viśva
Gunādarśa Campū and Hastigiri Campū of
Venkatadhvarī (seventeenth century A D)
etc. which also deserve mention

Nīlkaṇtha
Vijay campū

Exercise

1 Mention and characterise the main classes of epic poems. What reasons are there for holding that the Mahābhārata in its present form is an amplification of an older and simpler form ? (1909 p)

2 What is known as to the history of Kāvya literature ? What light is thrown upon that history by inscriptions ? State and characterise Prof. Maxmuller's Renaissance Theory (1909 H, 1930 p.)

3 State and criticize the different theories regarding the date of Kālidāsa (1910P, 1912P, 1929H)

4 What evidence is there for determining the date of the Rāmāyana ? (1910H. 1912P 1929 1934H 1932P)

5. Discuss the date of the composition of the Mahābhārat ? (1911P, 1933P, 1935H)

6. Name the Principal Purānas which disseminate the cult of Śiva, and write short notes on Kathāsarit-Sagar, Mrcchakatika and Nava Sāhasanka Carit. (1911P)

7. Indicate the distinguishing characteristics of the two main classes of Sanskrit epic poetry Discuss the evidence as to the time at which the Mahābhārat may have attained its ultimate form (1911H)

8 What has been ascertained as to the history of the text of the Rāmāyaṇa ? On what evidence have attempts been made to determine its age ? What are the main characteristics of its style ? 1912.

9. Give some account of Sanskrit prose literature (1913P, 1924P.)

10 State and examine the theories held by modern scholars as to the composition of the Mahābhārata Contrast the spirit and form of the Mahābhārata with those of the Rāmāyaṇa (1913H)

11 Give a brief history of Kāvya literature and a somewhat detailed account of one work of that class (1913H)

12 Either name the eighteen Purāṇas or discuss the date of the composition of the Rāmāyaṇa. (1914.P)

13 On what basis may conjectures regarding the age of the Rāmāyaṇa be formed? On what grounds have certain parts of the poem been held to be later additions? (1914P).

14 Give a general account of the prose romances in Sanskrit with details as to any one of them

15 Either enumerate the principal purāṇas or comment on the following observations—The careful investigations of Prof Jacobi have shown that the Rāmāyaṇa originally consisted of five books only. 1915P

16 Discuss—The researches of the late professor Buller and of Mr Fleet render untenable Prof Max-Muller's well-known theory of the Renaissance of Sanskrit literature in the sixth century (1915 p)

17 Either discuss the date of the composition of the Mahābhārata or state what you know of the time and place of the origin of the Rāmāyaṇa. (1916)

18 Discuss the historical basis of the Mahābhārata What Vedic traditions have been preserved in it? (1917.)

19 Give an account of the several recensions of the Mahābhārata and of the Rāmāyaṇa (1917 p)

20 Explain the position of the Mahābhārat in the Sanskrit literature and discuss the date and method of its composition. (1918, 1922)

21. Describe the origin and development of Sanskrit epic poetry (1919 p)

22. Clearly state the theory of Jacobi as to the age of the Rāmāyana (1919)

23 Discuss the antiquity of the Rāmāyan or of the Mahābhārat. 1920.

24 Point out the distinctive features of the Vedic and classical Sanskrit literature 1920

25 Explain the plot of the Rāmāyana and explain the date of its composition. (1921)

26. Give a concise survey and general estimate of the Kāvya literature with some details of one or two principal works discussing in this connection the so called Renaissance theory of Maxmüller. 1923

27 Either narrate the general characteristic of the works going by the name of Purānas or discuss the remarks—"The Rāmāyana originally consisted of five books 1925.

28. (a) "The Māhābhārata in its present shape contains an epic nucleus and in course of time it has become a comprehensive didactic work"—Discuss

(b) What evidence have we regarding the origin and history of the Mahābhārat and the stages by which it attained its present form ? 1926.

29. Discuss the so called Renaissance theory of Maxmüller and its bearing upon the early history of Sanskrit Kāvya literature, 1926.

30 How do you know that Sanskrit court poetry was in existence in the first five centuries of the Christian era 1927 p

31 Give a brief account of two of the historical Kāvya and mention their authors 1929 p

32 Trace the origin and growth of the Mahābhārata 1930 p

33 In any case our Mahābhārata is not only the heroic poem of the battle of the Bharatas but at the same time also a repertory of the old bard poetry,— Explain briefly 1932 p

34 What is in your opinion the exact position of the Purānas in the history of the Indian literature, both according to contents and chronology ? 1933 p

35 Give a brief account of the development of the historical kāvya literature (1932 p)

36 Write an essay on the different types of the Purānas

CHAPTER IX

BUDDHIST LITERATURE,

Age of Buddhist Literature.

The approximate age of Buddhist Literature may be a few years before or after 485 B. C. Almost the whole of the oldest Literature of the Buddhist consists of collections in the form of conversations, songs, narratives and canon of the order. According to Buddhist tradition the first Buddhist council was organised by the immediate disciples of Buddha with a view to establish a canon of the order. This resulted in the composition of the Sutta-pitak and Vinaya-pitaka. The second council was held at Vaisali a hundred years after the death of Buddha with a view to revise the doctrine of the first council. According to the report of the chronicles of Ceylon real canon of sacred texts was compiled during the third council which was held at the time of Asoka. These canonical compilations came to be known as 'Tipitakas' or three baskets. These are Vinaya-Pitaka, Sutta-pitaka, and Abhidhamma-pitaka.

Buddhist Councils and Pitakas

Vinaya-Pitaka contains all that refers to the monastic community. It

prescribes rules of the discipline of the orders and the precepts for daily life of the monks and nuns

Benoy Pitak.

Sutta piṭaka literally means a basket of short rules. It gives a long or short explanation of religion in the form of a dialogue. It consists of five Nikāyas or great collections of Sūtras.

Sutta Pitak

It is believed by the Buddhists that Abhidhamma piṭaka or a basket of the higher subtleties of the doctrine, does not contain the sermons of Buddha but those that were composed by his disciples. The work chiefly refers to the Psychological foundations of the Buddhist ethics.

Abhidhamma
Pitak

There are two communities among the Buddhists, the Mahāyāna and the Hīnayāna. The scriptures of the former have been written in Sanskrit or mixed Sanskrit and those of the latter in Pāli. The Hīnayānists call them 'Therāvādī'. According to them the scriptures of the Mahāyāna community are artificial, while those of theirs are simple and genuine as they were direct instructions of Buddha himself.

Buddhist
communities.

The distinctions existing between these two communities may briefly be stated thus. They who have attained nirvāna are called *Arhats*. Their death is known as *Parinirvān*. These *Arhats* are chiefly divided into

Distinction
between
these com-
munities

three sections—Buddha, Pratyeka Buddha and Śrāvaka. Of these who acquire perfect knowledge by themselves without receiving instructions from others are known as Buddha and Pratyeka Buddha, with this difference only that the one may attain *nirvāṇ* and make others do it, while the other lacks in the latter capacity. Those who attain *nirvāṇ* on hearing instructions from the Buddhas are called Śrāvakas

How is Nir-
van attain-
able

According to both these communities *nirvāṇ* is attainable through the observance of tenfold vows, called Pāramitās. These are—Dān, Śīl, Kṣānti, Vīrya, Dhyān, Prajñā, Upāya, Bala, Pranīdhi, and Jñyān. All except Prajñā are common to all Śānti. Dev has given a full description of these ten ways in verses in his Bodhi Caryyāvatāra, which is a brief account of his Sūtra Samuccaya.

The Buddhistic literature being very vast we give below only a short description of some of these books

Dhammapada
a brief acc-
ount

1 *Dhammapada*—It is a collection of pithy sayings composed in Pāli verses. The work is divided into eight sections called vaggas, each of which contains ten suttas. The book aims at blissful repose of mind and the attainment of *nirvāṇ*.

2 *The Jātakas*—These are mostly occupied by legends described in Pāli language. Some of these are analogous to the dialogues of the Upanisads and the Mahābhārat. The main theme of the book is to depict the previous life of Buddha in the forms of birds, beasts etc

A brief account of Jātakas

3 *Dīpavamsā*—It is a history of Ceylon in Pāli verses written about 4th century A D

Dīpavamsā

4 *Mahāvamsā*—It is a perfect epic composed probably by Mahānām towards the close of the 5th century A D in Pāli. It speaks of the story of Gotama Buddha and especially the history of Buddhism in India. The story of Bejoy Singh is also depicted here. From historical point of view the Mahāvamsā tikā is a work of greater importance written between 1000 and 1250 A D.

Mahāvamsā its subject matter

We learn from Mahāvastu quotations that there was a Dhammapada in Sanskrit canon also divided into vaggas, and that its style corresponds to that of the Pāli Dhammapada

5 *The Mahāvastu*—It is a work in mixed Sanskrit and describes the life of Buddha. This is a treasure-house of Jātakas and other narratives. It is written partly in pure prose and partly in mixed prose and verse.

Mahāvastu

Story of
Lalitavistar

6. *The Lalit vistar*—It is one of the most sacred of the Mahāyāna texts and is otherwise known as Vaipulya Sūtra or discourse of great extent. It gives a splendid picture of the Buddha with divine hallow shining around him. The narrative begins with the biography of Buddha and forms the subject matter of the book. There are many wonderful stories described here with relation to the Buddha in a very charming way.

Subject matter of Buddha carit

7. *Buddha Carit*—Aśva Ghosh, the author of the book, is one of the most prominent poets of Sanskrit literature. He flourished during the reign of King Kaniska of the 2nd century A. D. In it the poet has given the intrinsic truth of the Buddhist doctrine in a noble and artistic way. The Buddha carit is a mahākāvya or great epic and is possessed of all the main characteristics of the great epic.

8. *The Saundarānanda Kāvya*—This also was written by Aśva Ghosh. The book gives the life story of Buddha and along with it describes beautifully the story of lovelorn Nanda, the half-brother of Buddha. The plot of the book is as follows—

A brief account of Saundarānanda Kāvya

Suṇḍarī, the beautiful wife of Nanda, mourns her lost husband and Nanda too longs to be back with his beloved. The attempts of the monks to calm him ends

in smoke. The Buddha takes him with himself and ascends to heaven. He showed to Nanda the Apsaras in heaven. Then the master asked him if his wife was as beautiful as the Apsaras. Nanda answered in the negative and hankered after the apsaras. Ananda explains to him the frail nature of heavenly bliss and Nanda is convinced at last, and goes to Buddha to receive instructions from him and through his grace attains liberation.

9. *The Vajrasūci*—This is also ascribed to Asva Ghosh. The work betrays an intimate knowledge of the poet regarding Brahmanical literature. In it he refutes the Brahmanical caste system very sarcastically. The Chinese translation (973—981 A.D.) ascribes the book to Dharmakīrti.

Vajrasūci.

10. *Śāri Putra Prakāśan*—It is a drama found in fragments and ascribed to Asva Ghosh. The subject matter of the book is the conversation of Śāri Putra and his friend Maudgalyayana regarding Buddhism.

Subject matter.

11. *Sutrāṅkār*—It is preserved in a fragmentary condition. This too was composed by Asva Ghosh. The book has been written in prose and in verse resembling the mode of classical style. The substance of Jātakas and Avadānas are given here.

Subject matter

12 *The Jātakamālā*—It was written by Āryya Sūr. The book narrates the anecdotes of Buddha's actions in his previous births. It is composed in prose and verses intermingled and is important for its historical interest.

13 *Catuśṣatī*—The author of the book is Āryya Dev who flourished in 250 A D. He has attacked the Brahmanical practice of bathing in the Ganges to remove sin and acquire merits thereby very cuttingly.

14 *Śiśyalekha Dharma Kāvya*—It was composed by Candrar Gomin. It is a treatise on instructions in the form of a letter to a disciple dealing with the essential doctrines of the Buddhist faith.

15 *Suhillekha*—The author Nāgārjuna has depicted the Buddhist doctrine here very nicely for the use of his patron, a king. Nāgārjuna is undoubtedly the author of the commentaries Prajñā Pāramitā Sūtra Śāstra and Daśa Bhūmi Vibhāsa Śāstra. Besides he is the author of a number of books and translations on various subjects.

16 *Mahāyān Sūtrāṅkara*—The author of the book is Asanga, brother of Vasubandhu, who flourished in 4th century A.D. The book is overloaded with technicalities and written in correct but undig-

nified Sanskrit.

17. *Kalpanarāṇḍīkā*—It has been edited by Prof Luder in fragments found in central Asia. The author of the book is Kumāralāta. It throws a flood of light on the developement of Kāvya literature.

The Āvadāna literature

The word Avadāna signifies a noteworthy deed and generally in the good sense of a heroic deed. These are stories to illustrate that black deeds bear black fruits and white deeds white fruits. The Avadānas like Jātakas, are a kind of sermons. A regular avadāna consists of a story of the present and a story of the past with a moral attached to it. When the story of the past is in relation with the Bodhisattva it is called Jātaka. Both the Avadānas and Jātakas explain the law of Karma under an allegory.

A short notice of Avadāna literature.

1. *The Avadānaśataka*—It is the oldest of these kinds of books. It was translated into Chinese in the first of the 3rd century A.D. The work belongs to the Hinayāna school. Buddha-worship forms the prominent part of the legend. This is consisted of ten decades and deals with a particular subject in every story. It contains also Jātakas.

Avadāna
Śatak

2. *The Karma Śataka*—It is very much like the Avadāna Śataka and has a number

Karma
Śatak

of legends in common with it. The book is found in Tibetan translation only.

3 *The Divyāvadān*—Narratives here begin and end in the same manner as they are found in the Avadān Śatak. The composition of the work is very confused and disconnected, and the language and style too are not in agreement with the subject matter.

4 *The Avadān Kalpalatā*—It was written by the Kāśmīrean poet Ksemdra in 850 A.D.

JAINA LITERATURE

1 *Upamitabhavaprapañcā kathā*—It was written by Śidha or usually known as Siddharsi in the beginning of the 10th century A.D. This famous allegorical romance has described the existence in symbolical terms. It is divided into eight books called Prastāvas. The work aims at how a man by auspicious deeds can attain to salvation. He wrote also the Ādi Purāṇ.

2. *Trisasthi Salākā Puuṣa Caritam*—It was written by Hemcandra Śūri in the 11th century A.D. He was a prolific writer and had written Grammar, lexicography, poetics and metrics. The seventh parva of the book is called the Jaina Rāmāyana. The book gives the life-sketches of 63 Jinas.

who were born before and would be born again.

3 *Harivamśa Purāṇ*—It was written by Jina Sen in the 8th century A. D. The book describes in 66 sargas the legends of Kṛṣṇa and Balarām. Another *Harivamśa* in 39 sargas was written by Sakala Kīrti in the 15th century A. D.

Subject
matter

4 *Pāṇḍava Carit*—It was written by Devaprabha Sūri in about 1200 A. D. It describes the contents of Mahābhārata in 18 Sargas in a concise form. Another *Pāṇḍava Purāṇa* which is known as Jaina Mahābhārata was written in 1551 A. D. by Śubha Candra.

An account
of the work

5 *Mahāpurāṇa*—It was written by Jina Sen and Guṇa Bhadra. The work describes the life of sixty-three Jinas and consists of Ādipurāṇ in 47 chapters.

Subject
matter

6 *Neminirvāṇ*—It is a Mahākāvya in 15 cantos by the poet Vāgvata. It deals with the life story of Nemināth, a Jina.

Subject
matter

7 *The Pārśvanāth Caritra*—It was written by Bhavadev Sūri in about 1255 A. D. It not only gives the life story of the saint but deals in details also with his last incarnation.

Subject
matter.

8. *The Tirtha Kalpa*—It is otherwise known as *Kalpa Pradīp* and *Rāja Prablād*. The book was written by Jina Prabha Sūri between 1326 and 1331 A. D. It furnishes us

A brief
account of
the work.

with a description with the Jainistic places of pilgrimages with the names of their founders

A brief
account of
the work

9 *Yaśastilaka*—It was written by Somadeva Sūri in about 959 A D It is written in prose and verse based upon Guna Bhadra's Uttar Purāṇ This depicts the life of king Māri Datta who gave himself up to sensual pleasure when he ascended the throne There at the advice of his family priest he makes preparation for a great sacrifice and learns from the victims of the sacrifice, who were his own relatives, the gist of the Jaina religion The king was at last converted to the Jaina faith

A short
account of
the work

10. *Kathā Kosa*—It is a treasure house of stories compiled by some unknown authors It is curious to note that the last story in the book refers to Nala and Damayantī of the Mahābhārat in Jainistic adaptation There are many charming fairy tales described in it

Subject
matter

11 *Moharāja Parājaya*—This is an allegorical drama by Jaśahpāl describing the defeat of king Delusion It was composed between 1229 and 1232 A D The book in five acts narrates the conversion of king Kumār Pāl to Jainism and his marriage with Kṛpā sundarī.

Subject
matter.

12 *Ratana Mandira Stotra*—It consists of forty four stanzas composed by the famous Siddha Sen Divākar. The Stotras are in honour of Pārśvanāth.

CHAPTER X

LYRICS (200 B C—1800 A D)

Poetry that is fit to be sung to the lyre is called lyric poetry. The individual thoughts and the feelings of the poet constitute lyric poetry. It is a free and unrestrained outburst of the poet's heart that is full to the brim with overflowing thoughts. When the heart is convulsed with passion, sorrow or emotion, the poet gives expression to it in the shape of lyric poetry. So this kind of poetry is the product of the inmost soul of a particular individual. Shelly's *Adonais*, Tennyson's *In Memoriam* and poems of like nature are specimens of lyric poetry. Sanskrit lyrical poetry has not produced many works of any considerable length. We give below the description of a few of them.

A short notice of lyrical poetry.

1 *Meghadūta*—Kālidāsa's *Meghadūta* is a lyrical gem which won the admiration of Goethe. It consists of 115 stanzas. The subject-matter of the poem is a message sent by an exile to his wife who dwelt far away at Alaka through a cloud. The book is divided into two parts called *Purva Megha* and *Uttara Megha*.

Subject matter.

2 *Rtusamhāra*—Kālidāsa's *Rtusamhāra* consists of 153 stanzas. It describes in six

Subject
matter.

chapters all the various seasons This displays the poet's sympathy with Nature, his keen power of observation and his skill in describing seasons in vivid colours.

Ghatakarp-
ra

3. *Ghatakarpura*.—A lyric poem consisting of 22 stanzas is named Ghatakarpura after its author. The verses are full of erotic sentiments. The date of the poem is not known.

Subject
matter.

4. *Caurapañcāśika*.—The Caurapañcāśika or the Fifty Stanzas of the Thief is a lyrical poem containing considerable beauty Bilhana, the author of the book, belonged to the latter half of the 18th century. It is said that the poet fell in love with a princess and when detected was sentenced to death But he pleased the king by his work and was let off.

Subject
matter.

5. *Śṛṅgāraśatakam*—Bhartrhari's Śṛṅgāra Śatakam deserves mention here This deals with erotic sentiment The poet lived in the first half of the seventh century A D

Subject
matter.

6. *Śṛṅgāratilakam*—This consisting of 22 stanzas is attributed to Kālidāsa But it is undoubtedly the work of a later poet This, though full of erotic verses, has much originality in it According to Mr Hillebrandt it was written by Kālidās

Subject
matter

7. *Amaruśatakam*—Amaruśatakam or Hundred Stanzas of Amaru, describes skilfully the various stages of estrangement and reconciliation The poet lived perhaps in the 9th century A. D.

8 *Saptaśatakam*—This was written by Hāla in Prakrit before 1000 A. D. Gobardhana translated these in modern Sanskrit under the title of *Āryāsaptaśatī*. His critical estimate of poets and their poems is indeed charming.

Subject
matter

9. *Anyokti Muktaśatī*—of Sambhu and Anyokti Śatak of Viśeṣvar are poems of the nature of *Āryā Sapta Śatī*. Both these were written in the eleventh century A D

Date and
author.

10 *Bhāmīnī Vilās*—of Jagannāth who lived in the 17th century A D. during the rule of Sajahan is a good lyrical poem Besides this, he composed several śloka known as Pīṇśa Laharī, Sudhālaharī, Amṛita Laharī etc, which too are genuine specimens of lyrical composition.

The author
and his
works

11 *Sabhā Rañjan Śatak*, *Sānti Vilās*, *Śivotkarsa Mañjarī* etc of Nīlkaṇṭha, contemporaneous with the poet Jagannāth are good lyrical poems

N B—There is an overwhelming number of śloka in Sanskrit written by various persons at different times, which can appropriately be taken under this head. Though short, they are indeed good specimens of lyrical poetry. Their number would exceed a thousand. Many of them have been compiled by some publishers under the name of *Śloka-mālā*, *Śloka-sāgar*, *Śloka-ratna* etc.

Stotras occupy
the
place of
lyrical
poetry

Subject matter and critical estimate

12. *Gītagovinda*.—The *Gītagovinda* represents the transitional stage between pure lyric and pure drama. Its author Jayadeva, a native of Bengal, was a contemporary of a Bengal king named Lakṣmaṇasena who lived in the twelfth century A D. It is famous for its grace of diction and smoothness of style.

Part played by Nature in lyrics

Nature in Sanskrit Lyrics—Plant and animal worlds play an important part in all the lyrics. The bright eyes and beauty of Indian girls are often compared to blossoming trees, fragrant flowers, songs of gay birds, and also to lotus ponds bathed in tropical sun shine, &c.

ETHICAL POEMS

Names of some ethical poems

1. *Ethical poems*—There are several ethical poems in Sanskrit. Of these the *Nīti* and *Vairāgya Śatakas* of Bhaṭṭaḥari (600 A D), *Śānti Śataka* of Śilhana, the *Mohamudgara* of Śāṅkarācārya, *Cāṇakya Śataka*, *Nītimanjari* of Dya Dviveda, *Sadukti-karṇābharaṇa* of Śrīdhara Sena (1205 A D.), *Sārangadharapaddhati*, and *Subhṣītāvali* of Ballavadeva are important.

Śatakas—Their subject matter and date

The three *Śatakas* (*Nīti*, *Vairāgya*, *Śānti*) are attributed to Bhaṭṭaḥari belonging to the Royal house of Ujjain. But these *Śatakas* seem to be of later origin. They are interspersed with Vedaṅtic phraseology. Several doctrines of the purāṇas also are referred to in these works. According

to Prof. Wilson these were written about the 10th or 12th century A. D. Some think that Bhartṛhari explains chiefly the doctrines of the Vedānta System of Philosophy in these works, though here and there he refers to Yoga doctrine also. The style is simple and lucid. But the meaning is sometimes obscure on account of an attempt at brevity.

Śaṅkarācāryya's Mohamudgara consisting of several stanzas describes very beautifully the transitoriness of the world and the way to attain salvation. It is believed that he composed these verses and left them under the care of one of his disciples when he with a view to learn Kāmasāstra entered into the body of king Amaraka. The disciple was advised by him to chant these verses before him if he would unfortunately be addicted to worldly pleasures forgetting his real mission.

Mohamud-
gar—its
brief
account

The Dhammapada in Pāli deserves mention here. It is a collection of aphorisms representing the most beautiful, profound and poetical thought in Buddhist literature. The keynote of these works is the doctrine of the vanity of human nature.

Dhamma-
pada.

ANTHOLOGIES OR COLLECTION OF VERSES.

1. *Kavīndra Vacana Smuccaya*—This seems to be the oldest of its kind. It was compiled perhaps in 1200 A. D.

Date.

2. *Sadukti Karnāmṛta*—It was compiled by Śrīdhar between 1200 and 1205 A. D. Verses of some 446 poets have been collected in it. It is a matter of great joy that most of these poets hail from Bengal.

Author and
date.

3. *Subhāṣitāvalī*—Some 3500 slokas of 350 poets have been collected in it by Vallava Dev who lived in the 15th century A. D. Most of the original works of the poet referred to here are missing.

Author and
date.

4. *Śārngadhar Paddhati*—It was compiled by the famous physician Śaṅga Dhar who flourished in the 14th century A. D. The work contains six thousand verses composed by 264 poets.

Author and
date

5. *Vṛhat Stotra Ratnakar and Mahimna-stava*—It is a collection of many stotras. The last mentioned one was composed by Puspa Danta who lived in the 9th century A. D. He adores Śiva with a view to regain his power which he lost owing to his touching the flowers and bells by feet, that were offered unto Mahādev.

Stotras.

CHAPTER XI

DRAMA*

The Sanskrit rhetoricians divide kāvya mainly in two ways—Drśyakāvya and Śravya kāvya. Now kāvya is रसात्मकवाक्य, therefore a drama according to Hindu rhetoricians is a composition that can evoke intellectual pleasure and is suitable for representation on the stage i. The main function of drama is to employ dialogue to represent a harmonious action springing from circumstances of actual life before us that can be taken to be real.

Drama—its
definition.

The earliest form of dramatic literature according to Dr. Hertel and Prof. Macdonell, can be traced to the dialogues of the Rgveda, such as, those of Saramā and Paṇis

Sources
of drama.

-
- * नाटक ख्यातवत् स्यात् पञ्चसन्धिसमन्वितम् ।
पञ्चादिका दशपरास्तावद्वाः परिकीर्तिताः ।
प्रख्यातवशी राजर्षिर्धौरोदात्तः प्रतापवान् ।
दिव्योऽथ दिव्यादिव्यो वा गुणवान् नायको मतः ॥
एक एव भवेदङ्गी शङ्करो बौर एव वा ।
अङ्गमर्थे रसा सर्व्वे कार्य्यनिर्व्वहणेऽङ्गुतम् ।
चत्वारः पञ्च वा मुख्याः कार्य्यव्यापृतपुरुषाः ।
गोपुच्छायसमायन्तु बन्धन तस्य कौर्त्तितम् ॥

1. दृश्यव्यत्यलभेदेन पुनः काव्यं द्विधा मतम् । दृश्यं तत्राभि
नेयं स्यात् । साहित्यदर्पणम् ।

Yama and Yamī, Pururavāh and Urvasī etc.,¹ as also to the Vedic rites which did not consist merely of the singing of songs or recitation of hymns in honour of the gods, but involved a complex round of ceremonies in which the performers of the 'rite assumed for the time being personalities other than their own. Prof Keith has described elaborately in his 'Drama' that in the Mahāvrata sacrifice there are sufficient materials for the development of Drama and that there undoubtedly were present elements of dramatic representation. Of various elements which enter into a drama the songs of the Sāmaveda and the use of ceremonial dances occupy the highest place.

According to Profs Hillebrandt and Sten Konow the drama traces its origin to popular mime along with national epics. Prof Pischel holds that the puppet play was at the bottom of Sanskrit drama and that India is the cradle of drama, whence it has spread over the world. He believes that dramas had their origin in shadow dramas. Prof E. B. Hoerwitz is of opinion that Indian drama has its origin in the recitation of national songs at a social or religious gathering. According to Prof. Ridway the time honoured custom of honouring the great led to the development of Hindu drama. So this had its origin in ballads.

Different theories regarding the source of drama held by different scholars

1. Kalidas took the last mentioned dialogue as the burden of his immortal drama *Vikramorvaśīyam*.

composed in honour of the actual exploits of famous heroes and distinguished persons. Some scholars however suppose that dramas began with a combination of Vedic hymns in a dramatic form and with religious dances. This is borne out by the fact that the Sanskrit word for play (Nāṭaka) and actor (Nāṭa) have sprung from the root 'nat' the Prākṛt form of the Sanskrit root 'nṛt' to dance.

It is believed by the Hindus that the art of drama was at first fully developed in heaven by the divine sage Bharata (whom Bhababhūti calls तौथ्यविकसूक्तकार in his Uttara caritam) and then it came down to earth.

Hindu belief regarding the origin of drama

The most primitive sense of the term, *drama*, is *deed* or *action* but ere long it came to mean representation by persons. According to Aristotle tragedy and comedy which are among those arts have the general conception of 'moves or imitation'. Hence according to some dramatic literature represents action—an idealised representation of human life. Imitation is indeed at the bottom of the rise of drama as it is designed to reproduce events which have already happened or are supposed to be happening.

What does a drama mean?
The rise of drama

It is closely connected with epic and lyric with this difference only that the former has only the spoken words, while

Connection
of drama
with the epic
and the lyric
and its difference from
them.

the latter always requires action. Emotion of the poet, as in the lyric, does not constitute the plot of the dramatic poet, he must take his subject matter from religion, history or the actual life of man. The subject matter of lyric poetry is therefore opposed to that of drama. The subject matter of epic poetry is also drawn from religion, history or life, but the epic poet speaks in his own person, whereas the dramatic poet lets the characters speak for themselves.

Connection
of drama
with the
pictorial.
What
constitutes
drama?

It is linked also to the pictorial art which lacks in spoken word and hence is static, whereas, dramatic art is continuous throughout. It is more akin to music and the dance. Though the origin of drama is wrapped in obscurity still it can be inferred that it was originally purely religious and that it formed a part of magic art. Tradition also declares that the first dramatic representation in the presence of gods consisted of three elements--*वृत्त*, *वृत्त* and *नाट्य*. They owe their origin to the national epics to a certain extent.

Body of
drama

Every drama consists of two forms—external and internal. Actions etc. form its external form or body, while volition is its internal form or soul. So Ferdinand Brunnetiere says, in his *The law of drama*, 'It is not so much "conflict" as "volition", which constitutes the soul of drama.

Reference

The earliest reference to the staged drama is to be found in the *Mahābhāṣya* belonging

to the second century B C Therein we find the mention of representations of the *Kaṇṣa Vadham* and *Balibandham*

Fragments of Indian palm-leaf manuscripts found in Central Asia show that dramatic literature was flourishing several centuries earlier in the Kusān period The discovery of Aśvaghoṣe's fragments of drama has shattered the theory of Prof Levi It shows that drama had attained a very definite and complete form long before the advent of the शक The Gīrnar inscription of Rudra Dāman (about 150 A D) and the inscription of Saka Ushava Dāta or Rishava Datta (124 A D) point to the above conclusion. The theory that the Western Kshatrapas introduced Sanskrit drama, also falls to the ground from the above facts

When did
drama flourish ?

The history of drama must be inferred from (1 the plays themselves, (2) from works dealing with the arts of dramatic composition and dramatic representation, (3) from references in other literatures, (4) and from a consideration of the popular theatre which continues still to flourish in India In his "A Bibliography of Sanskrit Drama" M Schuyler notices the names of 500 Sanskrit dramas The number itself, which has come down to us, is a sufficient guarantee for the rich and varied development of the dramatic literature This is corroborated also by treatises on the cons-

History of
drama—its
development

truction and representation of the plays numbering more than a dozen. Of these treatises the Nāṭya Sūtra of Bharata, the Daśarūpa of Dhanañjaya, the Nāṭaka Candrikā Alamkāra of Rūpagosvāmī, the Nāṭya Darpaṇa of Rāmacandra and the Sāhitya Darpaṇa of Viśvanātha Kavirāja deserve mention. Only a few old works have references to the representations of dramatic literature. The Harivamśa speaks of a नाटकीकृत रामायण, the authorship of which is ascribed to Vālmiki. Bhababhūti in his Uttaracaritaṃ perhaps refers to this when he says, “तस्यैव कीदृशे कदेशे सन्दर्भान्तरै रसवानभिनेयार्थं कृतं तच्च स्वहस्ते लिखितं मुनिर्भगवान् व्यष्टजद भरतस्य मुनेः सौख्यविकल्पाकारस्य” (Act IV). Epics, generally do not mention anything regarding dramatical literatures. Patañjali, as has been said before, mentions the names of कस्यचन and बलिबन्धन by way of illustration of dramatic or graphic presentation. Pāṇini's mention of नटसूत्र, a text book for directions or rules for actors, ascribed to Śiālīn and Kṛśāśva also shows that dramatic literature had had its development even before the time of Pāṇini. Though the origin of drama is wrapped in obscurity, still it may fairly be stated that Indian drama flourished side by side, if not earlier than, the Greek drama.

Age of drama

Greek and Indian theories of drama.

According to Aristotle a drama must have (1) unity of action, (2) unity of time and (3) unity of place. The चायं नाट्यशास्त्रं recognises the first fully and the second to a

certain extent. It does not recognise the third at all

According to the *unity of action* all incidents of the play should converge to the same point, i.e. they should directly or indirectly help the principal action of the drama to come to its close nicely. According to the *unity of time* no drama shall exceed in duration a day. According to the *unity of place* all dramatical scenes should be laid in one place. The *आर्यनाट्यशास्त्र* does not observe the second and third unities in many places. The drama is a state or condition in *आर्य-नाट्यशास्त्र*, but in Aristotle it is an action. Acting is common in both but dancing is not valued much by Aristotle. Both lay great stress on the plot over much. The division of characters as *high*, *middle* and *low* is akin to the Grecian *ideal*, *real* and *inferior*. Indian stage was quite different from that of Greece. Greek dramas have chorus, while it is absent in Hindu dramas. *विस्तृभङ्ग*, *प्रवेशक*, *प्रकरी* etc. are entirely absent in Greek dramas. Similarly the five junctures or *पञ्चसन्धि* of Hindu drama, though not expressly mentioned, are found in, as Mr D. N. Basu points out, European dramas' too *

Unities—
how far they
are observed

Similarity
or disparity
of Hindu
drama with
European
Drama

* See *शकुन्तला* नाट्यकला by Devendranath Basu.

TYPES OF DRAMA

1. *Nataka*—The subject matter of drama is drawn from tradition or religion. The hero is

What constitutes a Nāṭak

either king or a royal saint or a god appearing in human form. The dominant sentiment of the play is either heroic or erotic with other sentiments as subsidiary. The tragedy being unknown in Sanskrit, the end of the play must be happy. It is written both in prose and poetry. The prose must be simple and bereft of elaborate compounds and the verses sweet and clear. The number of acts should not be less than five and more than ten. It should be borne in mind in this connection that a play containing every kind of episodes goes by the name of Mahānāṭaka.

Sakuntalam, Uttara Rāmacaritam, Veṅṇī Samhāram etc fall under this species.

The form and subject matter

(2) *Prākāran*—It is a social comedy and follows mainly the laws of construction of the Nāṭaka. The subject-matter is a fictitious one chosen by the will of the play-right. Slaves, *bitas*, merchant chiefs and rogues of various kinds find their place here. The dominant sentiment is erotic. The name of the play is derived from the name of the hero or the heroine or from both. Sometimes it is derived from the principal incident in the subject matter.

Mālatī Mādhav, Mṛcchakatikam etc fall under this group.

(3) *Samavākār*—This describes something supernatural. The plot is derived from some

Subject
matter and
characteris-
tics

tale of gods or demons. The Sandhis are omitted here and Vindu (expansion) plays an important part. The number of heroes may reach twelve. The principal sentiment here is heroic. Amritamanthan and Pañcārātra etc. are the best types of this species.

Characteris-
tics

(4) *Ihamrga*—The play derives its name from the fact that in it a maiden is as hard to attain as a deer, which is sought after. The subject-matter is taken partly from legends and partly from poetic imaginations. The death of a great man should not be shown. The hero and his rival would be noble and haughty. In it Mukha, Pratimukha, Avamarsa and Nīrbahan Sandhis are allowed. The number of acts varies from one to five. Rukminiharaṇ and Vatsarājcarit are the best types of this.

Characteris-
tics

(5) *Dīma*—The heroes of the play are to be gods, demigods or demons—all of haughty types. The subject-matter is legendary. It is bereft of Sandhi. Magic, sorcery, combats, and eclipses are shown. Erotic and comic sentiments would not find their place here—the predominant sentiment being fury. The number of acts is four. There shall be neither प्रवेशक nor विष्कम्भक. It should be devoid of graceful manner. Tripurabadha and Man-mathonmathan are the best specimens of this.

(6) *Vyāyoga*—It would exhibit a military spectacle, the subject-matter here is legendary.

The hero is either a god or a royal saint. It has only one act and the action too extends only for a day. It is full of strife and battle. The erotic and comic sentiments are not allowed. Of the Sandhis *Mukha*, *Pratimukha*, and *Nirvāhana* are allowed.

Characteristics.

Pārthaparākrama and Madhyama Vyāyoga are the best of the types.

(7) *Anka*—It is, as the name indicates, a single act play. The subject matter is derived from legends with poetical development. The hero is a common folk and the sentiment is कथन *Mukha Sandhi* and *Nirvāhan Sandhi* are not allowed here. It is a play within a play. In Rāja Śekhar's *Bāla Rāmāyana* it is called *Prenkhanaka*.

Characteristic

Śarmisthā-Yajāti is a master piece of this type.

8 *Prahāsana*—Here the plot is the poet's invention. It deals with the tricks and quarters of low born people of every sort. There is only one act. *Mukha Sandhi* and *Nirvāhan Sandhi* are allowed. The prevailing sentiment is comic. There are three sorts of *Prahasana*.

Characteristics

(i) *Śuddha* (pure) in which heretics, maid-servants, Parasites and Brahmanas are represented in their appropriate costume and languages, (ii) The *modified* which represents eunuchs, chamberlains, ascetics in their proper garb and speech; (iii) The *mixed*—which contains the

Sorts.

Dramas are divided into two main classes—
Rūpakas or Nātakas and Uparūpakas or
Upanātakas There are ten different species
of the former and eighteen of the latter *

Division of
drama

Types of Upanātakas

Of the eighteen varieties of Upanātakas
the Nātikā, Prakaranikā, Sattaka, Trotaka,
Gosthī, Halliṣa, Nātyarāsakā, Śṛigadita etc
are important.

In a Nātikā, the hero must be a gay king
intriguing to attain marriage with the heroine
who is somehow or other introduced into
the royal harem in an inferior capacity The
jealousy of the Crown queen devoted to the
king at first stands in the way of the marriage
but is induced at last to sanction it The
dramatic personae mainly consist of women

A short no-
tice of Nā-
tikā

-
- * नाटक सप्रकरणं व्यथीग एव च ।
भाषाः समवकाश वीथी प्रहसनं हिम् ।
ईहान्दग्य रूपाणि दशैतानि विदुर्वुधा ।
शीघ्रीसंलापशिलौच प्रस्थानं काव्यमेव च ॥
उल्लासक शीघ्रदित भाषयैवाथ भाषिका ।
दुर्मल्लिका प्रेक्षणक भद्रकं रासक तथा ।
नाट्यरासकमुल्लास्यमुपरूपपाण्यभूनि तु ।

भरत ।

In addition to the above Viśvanātha enumerates
नाटिका, वीटक, विलासिका and प्रकरणौ, but he omits भाषा in the
group of उपरूपक । His इहोश may stand for Bharata's उल्लासक,
सट्टकम् for भद्रकम् and प्रेक्षणम् for प्रेक्षणकम् ।

It has four acts and abounds in Prākṛit
Ratanāvalī is the best specimen

Characteris-
tic

Prakaranikā—is precisely of the same character as Nāṭikā excepting that its hero and heroine generally belong to the merchant class

Characteris-
tic

Sattaka—is also a variant of the Nāṭikā. It is written in Prākṛit and has no introductory scene of any kind. The acts are called here यवनिकान्तर । A dance of the Sattaka type is found in abundance here. Trotaka is a variant of Nāṭaka with love between a human hero and a superhuman heroine.

A brief
account of
the work

The Halliṣa, as it appears from the name, is a glorified dance. The Nāṭyarāsaka is a *ballet-cum-pantomime*. The Goṣṭhī has nine or ten men and five or six women as actors.

Shadow play

Besides we have Chhāyā rūpaka or shadow play. Dharmābhyudaya and Dyutangada are the best specimens of this. Prof. Lūdas includes Mahānāṭaka in the list of Chhāyā Nāṭak. Gīta Govinda,—though a lyrical poem is capable of a *quasi-dramatic* presentation.

Characteristics of the Sanskrit Dramas

The characteristic features of Indian dramas are that they are a mixture of tragic and comic in one and the same book. As a rule, a Sanskrit drama cannot or rather should not have a tragic end *i. e.* it should not be a वियोगान्त one. In the course of the entire drama

it emphasises the plot and brings it to a nice perfection in a conspicuous manner. It is very difficult to single out any drama which is entirely devoted either to tragic or to comic interest. A little attention to the plot of the *Mudrārāksasam* will convince a reader as to how studiously Sanskrit dramatists devoted themselves to the perfection of plot.

Peculiarities
in Sanskrit
Drama.

Aim and Nature of dramas

The aim of the Indian dramatist is not to portray types of character, but individual persons. They do not, like the Greek dramatists, observe the unity of time or place. They often introduce romantic and fabulous elements. They mix prose with verse. They blend the comic with the serious. The character of the *Vidūṣaka* can be compared with that of the fool in Shakespeare. Contrivances are invented to further the action of the drama. No Sanskrit drama can be found which can serve the full purpose of an English drama like Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*.

Nature of
Sanskrit
Drama

Prologue
and Epilogue

Every Sanskrit play begins with a *prologue* or introduction and ends with an *epilogue* or conclusion.

Sanskrit drama is divided into scenes and acts. The former is marked by the entrance of one character and the exit of another. To show connection between a previous and

Scenes and Acts a following act an interlude * is often introduced The number of acts in a play varies from one to ten The species called *Nāṭikā* has four and the farcical *prahasana* only one

Yavanikā A curtain divided in the middle was a necessary part of the stage arrangement this formed the back-ground of the stage

Number of good drama

Kālidās the greatest dramatist.

The best dramas that have come down to us since Kālidāsa are about a dozen in number, and these were written between the 2nd century B C and the 8th century A D

The greatest dramatist of India is Kālidāsa *Sakuntalam*, *Vikramorvaśīyam* and *Mālavikāgnimitram* are his works Next to him stands Bhababhūti who wrote *Malatīmādhavam*, *Uttara Rāmacaritam* and *Viracaritam* Besides Śūdraka's *Mṛcchakatikam* Śrīharṣa's *Ratnāvalī*, and *Nāgānandam*, Mūrārimisra's *Anarḡha Rāghavam*, Bhattanārāyana's *Venisamhāram*, Kṛṣṇamīśra's *Prabodha Candrodaya*, Rājasekhara's *Balarāmayanam* and *Bālabhāratam* and Dāmodara Mīśra's *Hanumān Nāṭakam* deserve mention

Predecessors of Kālidās

Very little is known of the earlier dramatists than Kālidāsa The poet Rāmīla, Sauṃdillya, Sauṃdalla and others live in name only.

* वृत्तवर्तिष्यमानानां कथाशाना निदर्शकः ।
संक्षिप्तार्थस्तु विष्कम्भ आदावङ्गस्य दर्शितः ॥
मध्येन मध्यामाभ्यां वा पात्राभ्यां सप्रयोजितः ।
भृङ्गः स्यात् स तु संकीर्णो नौचमध्यमकल्पितः ॥

A number of works of the famous poet Bhāsa has recently been discovered and edited by Pandit T Ganapati Śāstrī

I — BHĀSA AND HIS WORKS

Pandit T Ganapati Śāstrī has proved conclusively in his introduction to the *Pratimā Nātakam* that at the time of the poet Sanskrit was the spoken language, that Bhāsa lived before the time of Patañjali and that the poet Kālidāsa was much influenced both as regards his dramas and poetical literature by the works of Bhāsa. In his opinion Bhāsa lived about 4th century B C

Bhāsa and
his time

Hitherto thirteen plays of Bhāsa have been discovered. These are *Pratijñā*, *Yaugandharāyana*, *Svapna-vāsavadatta*, *Pañcaratra*, *Bālacarita*, *Abhiseka*, *Pratimā*, *Cārudatta*, *Dūtaghatotkaca*, *Avimāraka*, *Madhyamavyāyoga*, *Karṇabhāra*, *Urubhanga* and *Dūtavākya*.

His works

1 *Pratijñā*—This is a nāṭikā in four acts. The story of the drama is as follows: Once Udayana, King of Vatsa, went a-hunting in the *Nāga* forest. There Sālankāyana, minister of Pradyota, King of Ujjayinī, placed an artificial elephant. When Udayana taking that to be a real one was ready to bring it under his control by playing on the harp named *Ghoṣavati* the soldiers fell upon him and took him prisoner. Then Sālankāyana took away his chains and gave him to Pradyota. Pradyota made

A brief account of
Pratijñā
Yaugandharāyaṇa

over Ghosavatī to his daughter, Vāsavadattā and made Udayana a prisoner in the palace. It so chanced that once Udayana and Vāsavadattā met each other and fell in love at first sight. Yaugandharāyaṇa, the minister of Udayana, heard what befell Udayana, was sad at heart and engaged spies throughout the length and breadth of Ujjayinī. He himself taking the guise of a mad man wandered through Ujjayinī and got his own men ready for war. Then when he saw that Vatsarāja was issuing out of Ujjayinī with Vāsavadattā riding upon an elephant named Bhadrāvatī in accordance with the instructions of Yaugandharāyaṇa, the latter was unfortunately taken captive by his antagonists. But seeing his uncommon intellect and skill Pradyota released him and sent him back to Kaus'āmbī with due respect.

2 *Svapnanātaka*.—This drama in six acts narrates the following story : There was a prophecy that Udayana would marry Padmāvatī, sister of the king Darsaka and regain his whole kingdom. Having belief in this Yaugandharāyaṇa, minister of Udayana, with a view to the quick performance of the marriage, spread the news that Vāsavadattā had been reduced to ashes when the village of Lāvanaka was on fire and placed her in the guise of a Brāhmana woman under the care of Padmāvatī. Vatsarāja though aggrieved

at the loss of Vāsavadattā, wedded Padmāvati. Once Vāsavadattā while sitting beside the sleeping Udayana heard him say something in his sleep regarding her. She touched him and fled away for fear of his being awakened. Vatsarāja awoke and followed her to bring her back, but she, by this time, was out of sight. This made him uneasy. The mother of Vāsavadattā sent to her son-in-law the picture board of her daughter along with Udayana. Padmāvati seeing the picture said that there was a Brāhmana girl, a prototype of Vāsavadattā, near her, whom her brother had placed in her custody. Then when she was brought before the king, the latter recognised her and knowing everything in detail from Yaugandharāyana was highly pleased and lived happily long with his wives.

Story of Svapna Vasavadattam

3 *Pañcarātra* — This is a drama in three acts. Droṇa being asked by Duryodhana at the end of the अथर्ववेदज्ञान about his honorarium said that he wished that the Pāṇḍavas would get back their kingdom. Duryodhana consented to this provided the whereabouts of the Pāṇḍavas could be found out within *five nights*. Then Duryodhana, Karna and others went to the country of Virāta to take away his cattle. Virāta being away from the country at the time, Arjuna, in the guise of Vṛhannalā, with Uttara, son of Virāta, attacked the Kaurava

Story of Pañcarātra

army and signally defeated them. Then it appeared soon after that the Pāṇḍavas with Draupadī were there. Druryodhana on hearing that acted up to his word and returned the kingdom to them.

Bālacaritam 4 *Bālacarita*—This is a drama in five acts and describes the feats performed by the young Śrīkr̥ṣṇa from the sucking of the life of Pūtānā to the killing of Kamsā.

5 *Abhiseka*—This drama in six acts describes the story of the Rāmāyaṇa as stated in the Kīśkindhyā, Sundara and the Yuddha Kāṇḍas. This relates also the installation of Rāma by the gods with the permission of Daśaratha.

Story 6 *Pratimā*—This is a drama in seven acts. The drama traces its origin to the Pratimā or statue, seeing which in the statue-house Bharata was able to infer the condition

Story of Daśaratha on Rama's departure to the forest. The subject matter of the book has been taken from the Ayodhyā and Aranya Kāṇḍas of the Rāmāyaṇa. This describes the story of the Rāmāyaṇa up to Rama's coronation in the hermitage after the killing of Rāvaṇa.

7. *Avimāraka*—This play in six acts deals with Avimāraka, the prince of the Sauvīrakas. On account of the curse of a sage, the prince with his parents lived in the city of King Kuntī-

bhoja, his uncle, in the guise of a Śvapāka. He once saved Kurangī, daughter of the king, from a fanatic elephant. Thus there grew mutual love and he lived secretly in the palace with her. Then followed their separation. Then he again came in contact with the princess with the help of the magic ring given to him by Vidyādhara. The period of the curse being over he was again reunited with his parents, uncle and others. Then they knew what happened from Nārada.

Plot of the
Drama.

8 *Cārudatta* — This play in four acts describes the love of Cārudatta, the hero of the drama, towards Vasantasenā, the heroine. It has a striking similarity with Śūdraka's *Mrcchakatikam*. It is doubtless that this Cārudatta forms the basis of Śūdraka's drama. The ideas tersely expressed in Cārudatta have been dragged to a tedious length in the *Mrcchakatikam*.

Plot.

9-13 *Madhyamavyāyoga*, *Dutavākya*, *Dutaghatokaca*, *Karnabhara* and *Urubhaṅga* are the remaining plays of the poet hitherto discovered. Each of these consists of a single act only. The first describes how Bhīmasena saved a Brāhmaṇa family from the severe grip of Ghatotkaca. In the second Śrīkrṣṇa goes to the Court of Duryodhana as a messenger of the Pāṇdavas. The third relates how Ghatotkaca being sent by Kṛṣṇa, who was angry on account of the death of Abhi-

Remaining
Dramas and
their subject
matter

manyu, acted as a messenger to Duryodhana. The fourth deals with the giving of armour and ear rings of Karna to Indra. The very name reveals the subject matter of the fifth book.

II — KĀLIDĀSA'S WORKS

Kālidāsa

Kālidāsa his
date

The earliest authentic reference to Kālidāsa, the greatest poet of India, is an inscription dated 634 A D (Jashapur, discovered by Mr Fleet of Bombay Civil service), in which he and Bhāravi are spoken of as being renowned poets. Bāna's reference to him in his *Harsacaritam* shows that he flourished before the time of Bāna who lived in the 1st half of the 7th century. It is not yet finally settled who, Vikrama, the patron of Kālidāsa, was. According to popular tradition he flourished in 56 B C. But scholars do not seem to be yet agreed on the point. Many of them are of opinion that Vikramāditya, the patron of Kālidāsa, preceded Śilāditya II and reigned in the sixth century. Macdonell places Kālidāsa in the 5th century A D [For a fuller account see "The date of Kālidās" *ante*].

Dramas of
the poet
and his other
works

Śakuntalam, *Vikramorvaśiyam* and *Mālavikāgnimitram* are the existing dramas of the poet. Besides, कुमारसम्भवम्, मेघदूतम्, रघुवधम्, अजुसंहारम्, नलीदयम्, सुतबोधम्, शङ्करतिलकम्, पुष्पवाणविलासम्

and ज्योतिर्विदाभरणम् are ascribed to the world poet Kalidāsa

His style is smooth and flowing He does not use big compounds like his followers. He is famous for his similes * In describing nature and tender feelings he all but excels all other poets of the world But the pandits of India hold generally that 'उत्तररामचरिते भवभूतिर्विशिष्यते' इति ।

Critical
estimate

1 *Sakuntalam*—This is a romantic drama in seven acts The plot is derived from the first book of the Mahābhārata and Padma-purāna This belongs to the group of Nātaka

Story of Sakuntalam—Dusyanta, a descendant of the Puru family, once went a hunting in the hermitage of Kanva and found Śakuntalā, his foster-daughter, watering the plants of the grove with her female friends Anasūyā and Priyamvadā The king at first sight fell in love with her and wedded her in the Gandharva manner He went away to his capital leaving a signet ring to her Śakuntalā after the departure of the king was absorbed in his thought Just then Durvāsāh, an angry sage, appeared on the scene and finding Śakuntalā neglecting her duty cursed her saying that the king would not recognise her without seeing the ring he gave her Sage Kanva on his return home knew everything in time

Plot of Śa-
kuntala.

* उपमा कालिदासस्य भारवेरर्थगौरवम् ।

नेपथ्ये पदकालित्यस्य साधे सन्ति त्रयो गणा ।

and sent Śakuntalā to Duśyanta with Gautamī, his sister, and two of his disciples. It so happened that on their way to the capital Śakuntalā lost the ring while bathing in Śacitīrtha. The king on their arrival before him refused to accept Śakuntalā and Gautamī and the disciples left the royal house in a rage, and Śakuntalā while following them with a heavy heart, was borne away by Menakā, her mother in the sky. Ere long a fisherman was arrested on a charge of theft of a royal ring. The man related the story of his coming by it. The king then recalled everything and felt exceedingly sad. Then came Mātali, the charioteer of Indra, to take him into heaven in order to subdue a foe of Indra. The king went to heaven and defeated the demon. On his way down from heaven to earth he met Śakuntalā with her son Bharata in the hermitage of Mārīca and was reunited with her.

2 *Vikramorvaśīyam*—This play consists of five acts and belongs to the Trotaka group. It traces its origin to the dialogue in the Rgveda known as Pururavah and Urvaśī.

The story of Vikramorvaśīyam :—Once king Pururavah while returning from his worship of the sun heard a plaintive note. He followed the cry and came across the female friends of Urvaśī. The king was told that the latter was taken away perforce by the demon Keśī.

He at once followed the demon and rescued her from his hands. A natural love grew in them. Urvasī being summoned before the throne of Indra, the lovers parted.

Urvasī played the part of Lakṣmī in the play of *The Betrothal of Lakṣmī* in heaven, and being asked on whom her heart was set she named Pururavah instead of Puruottama. She was consequently cursed by the teacher, Bharata, but was forgiven by Indra. Indra allowed her to remain with Pururavah till the latter saw his offspring.

Once Urvasī entered into the Kumāra forest and turned into a creeper. The king was in search of her everywhere but to no purpose. Finally under the influence of a magic stone, the creeper was transformed into Urvasī and they returned to the capital.

Then, as luck would have it, the king discovered his son Āyu. Urvasī must now go to heaven, but then Indra made a new concession and allowed her to remain with Pururavah till his death.

3 *Mālavikāgnimitram*—The hero of the book belonged to the Śuṅga dynasty reigning at Vidiśā, the modern Bhilsa. This describes the love of King Agnimitra and Mālavikā, one of the queen's attendants. The queen tried to keep her out of the sight of the king but at last the king saw her and fell

Plot of *Mālavikā*.

in love with her At last it turned out that Mālavikā was a princess and therefore there was no objection on the part of the king to marry her.

III —ŚUDRAKA'S WORK

Śūdraka, the author of *Mṛcchakatika*, flourished before Vikrama at whose court the nine gems lived The play according to Weber could not have been written before the second century A D For it mentions *nāṇaka* as the name of a coin which according to Wilson is borrowed from the coins of Kanerki, a king, who reigned in the 40 A D But a date long subsequent to this will have to be assigned to the drama, since the vernacular dialects it introduces appear in a most barbarous condition Besides, we get an account of the flourishing state of Buddhism here. Moreover, from the perusal of the drama it is seen that the parts of the Mahābhārata and the Rāmāyaṇa describing wars were a favourite reading at the time of its composition.

Śudraka and his date.

No other work is ascribed to him

Social condition

This drama describes the social condition of India of the time more fully than any other of its kind The plot is woven very skilfully and exquisitely. The execution of the work is also very nice.

1 *Mṛcchakatikam*—This play is attributed to King Śudraka but Dandin was most probably the real author of the book. The book abounds with old rites and customs and the duties of a house-holder. It in ten acts describes the love of Cārudatta, a wealthy merchant of the town of Ujjain, who spent all his wealth in charity and was possessed of an untarnished character, towards a rich courtesan of rare qualities named Vasantasenā. It belongs to the *prakāśana* group. The plot of the drama is the best of other Sanskrit plays. The name of the play is taken from an incident of the sixth act where the heroine gives all her ornaments to the hero's son in a *terracotta* cart. The poet most probably flourished in the 6th century A. D.

Social condition during the time of the play

Story of Mīchha-Kaṭikam.

IV – BHATTANĀRĀYANA'S WORK

According to tradition Bhattanārāyana, the author of the *Venisamhāra*, was the first ancestor of the present illustrious Tagore family. He was a native of Kānyakubja and one of the first of the Gauḍa Brahmins whom Ādiśūra invited to his Yajña. He is quoted by Mammata who lived between 1150 and 1250 A. D. Bhojadeva too mentions him, so he could not have flourished after 1070 A. D. Dasarūpaka written about the middle

The poet and his age.

Critical
estimate

of the 10th century has reference to this work Vāmana who lived about the middle of the 8th century A. D. quotes from Venīsamhāra in his Alankāra Sūtra. So the drama of Venīsamhāra belongs perhaps to 6th century A. D.

This is perhaps the only play which he wrote

He has shown his skill in writing heroic play. This drama conforms more closely to the rules of dramaturgy than any other Sanskrit play.

Story of
Venīsam-
hāra

Venīsamhāra—This is a play of Bhaṭṭa-nārāyaṇa in six acts. It derives its plot from the Mahābhārata. This describes the incident of Draupadī's being dragged by the hair of her head into the Court of Duryodhana by one of his brothers and Bhīma's promise of binding up her hair with his hand gory on account of drinking the life-blood of Duṣṣasana after his fall in the battle-field.

V — ŚRĪHARSA'S WORK

1. *Ratnāvalī*—This was written in the first half of the seventh century by Śrīharsa or more commonly known as Hardeva, king of Northern India. This has many points in similarity with Kālidāsa's Mālavikāgni-mitram and Bhāsa's Svapna nāṭaka. This

in four acts describes the love of Udayana, king of Kauśāmbī and Ratnāvalī, princess of Ceylon, who had been ship-wrecked and found her way to Vatsa's Court. The plot is derived from Somadeva's *Kathāsarit Sāgara*, Bhāsa's *Swapna nāṭaka* and Kālidāsa's *Mālavikā*. This belongs to the *Nāṭikā*-group.

No 2 *Nāgānanda*—The drama in five acts describes the self-sacrifice of Jīmūtavāhana. The subject-matter has been taken from the *Bṛhatkathā* of Guṇādhyāya. The plot of the book is as follows :—

Source of the drama

Jīmūtavāhana struck friendship with Mitrā Vasu. This man had a sister named Malayāvati. Jīmūtavāhana fell in love with her and married her. Once Jīmūtavāhana saw a heap of bones and asked for its reason. He came to know that these were the bones of the snakes that were offered unto Garuḍa. One day when Śankhaśūra's turn came, Jīmūtavāhana went in lieu of him. Garuḍa came to the fixed place at the appointed hour and devoured Jīmūtavāhana, but Gaurī showered nectarine juice from heaven and restored life to Jīmūtavāhana and the snakes that were devoured by Garuḍa.

Plot of the drama.

3. *Priya Darśikā*—The King of Kalinga was willing to marry Priyadarśikā, daughter of king Drdha Varmā who refused the proposal and got her married with Udayana, King

Plot of the drama

of Vatsa The King of Kalinga thereupon made war against Diḍha Varamā and drove him out of his kingdom Vijaysena, the commander of the Vatsa king, rescued the princess and brought her before his royal master Now she came to be known as 'Āranyikā' This Āranyikā was a cousin of the Queen consort Vāsavadattā In course of time she was married to Udayana

VI—BHAVABHŪTI AND HIS WORKS

Bhavabhūti

Age of the
poet

According to Rājataranginī Bhavabhūti was patronized by Yaśovarmā, King of Kānaḥ, who reigned in the middle of the 8th century Bhavabhūti is quoted by Rājasekhara, who lived in the beginning of the 10th century and also by Mammata who wrote Kāvya Prakāśa in the beginning of the 11th century In the long list of the poets in Harṣacaritam of Vāna Bhavabhūti is not mentioned, therefore it is clear that he came after Vāna who flourished in the 1st half of the 7th century Considering all these points we may say that Bhavabhūti flourished in the 2nd quarter of the eighth century

Works of the
poet,

Bhavabhūti is the author of three dramatic plays,—the *Viracaritam* *Mālatīmādhavam* and *Uttara Rāmacaritam*

Bhavabhūti is a poet of great merit. He

describes exquisitely the beauty and grandeur of nature. He is not inferior to Kālidāsa in depicting human character and deep pathos. The genius of Bhavabhūti was more of a lyric than of a dramatic nature.

Critical estimate.

Bhavabhūti was a native of Vidarbha in South central India. He is famous for his poetic beauty and feeling, exquisite verse and polished style. As a dramatist he has but moderate power.

1. *Mālatīmādhavam*—This is a prakaraṇa in ten acts and describes the love between Mālatī, the daughter of the minister of Ujjain, and Mādhava, a young scholar studying in that city and son of the minister of another state. The story of Makaranda, Mādhava's friend, and Madayantikā, a sister of the king's favourite, is skilfully interwoven with it. Kāmāndakī here serves the purpose of Friar Lawrence in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Plot of the drama.

2. *Māhāvīra Caritam*—It describes the early life and fortunes of Rāma. Bhavabhūti, here, closely follows Vālmiki, the author of the Rāmāyaṇa.

Subject matter

3. *Uttara Caritam*—This is a sequel to the *Māhāvīra Caritam*. This is rather a dramatic poem than a play. It describes in seven acts the banishment of Sītā, the birth of Lava and Kuśa and how they were brought up in the hermitage of Vālmiki. Rāma's Aśvamedha

Story of the play.

sacrifice and his re union with Sītā are described in the last act

VII—VIŚĀKHADATTA'S WORK

Viśakhadatta.

In the prelude of *Mudrārāksas* we find that the poet Viśakhadatta was the son of Mahārājā Pṛthu and grandson of the chieftain Vatesvaradatta. But these names are as yet wrapped in darkness. It can be surmised from the भरतवाक्य that the poet was a chieftain under king Candragupta during whose rule foreigners invaded India incessantly to settle there permanently. In place of Gupta in the verse the names रत्निवर्मा and अवन्ति वर्मा are also found. But from internal evidence of the book it seems fit to take चन्द्रगुप्त as the correct reading. Now there were there चन्द्रगुप्त who ruled India. The first was the founder of the Maurya dynasty, the second belonged to the Gupta dynasty of Magadha and the third was Candragupta II who owing to his vast power was styled Vikramāditya. The first one being an object of hatred to the author does not deserve consideration, the second is not known to have defeated the foreign invaders, the Mlecchas, the third one is therefore the king under whom the poet served Candragupta II flourished in the 5th century A D. So this is most probably the date of the poet.

Personal history and age of the poet.

Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Bhāgavata Purāṇa and Kathāsarit-sāgara are the sources of this drama

Sources

The plot of this drama though intricate in nature has nicely been worked out by the author. The work is replete with social rites and customs. Besides, we find in it the illustration of the relation between king and his subjects, husband and wife and friend and friend.

Plot

Mudrā-Rākṣasam—It was written by Viśākhaḍatta about 500 A D and deserves special mention. It is unique in its character. It is a historical drama and describes the ascension of Candragupta to the throne of Magadha and the destruction of the race of Nandas by the crooked policy of Cāṇakya and the winning over of Rākṣasa, the minister of the Nanda kings, to the side of Candragupta as well.

Subject matter

VIII.—RĀJASEKHARA'S WORKS

Rājasekhara

Peterson assures us that Rājasekhara's date is the middle of the eighth century. According to Mr. A. Borooah the seventh century is his probable date. But Apte after discussing various views comes to the conclusion that Rājasekhara lived between the end of the seventh and the middle of the tenth century, as he is quoted in

Date of the poet.

the Daśarūpaka. Mr. Fleet has proved from Asani inscription that Rājasekhara lived at the beginning of the tenth century A D This is now admitted on all hands to be the real date of Rājasekhara

Works The four plays, Karpūramañjarī, Viddhaśālabhañjikā, Bālarāmāyaṇa and Bālabhārata are ascribed to Rājasekhara

Critical estimate Rājasekhara's masterly command over more elaborate metres is one of his most noticeable characteristics His skill was not restricted only to Sanskrit but in Prākṛt versification too He has shown a really remarkable power in these respects Another prominent literary characteristic of Rājasekhara is his fondness for proverbial expressions Śārdūla vikṛidita, Vasantatilaka, sloka and Śragdharā are his favourite metres

Story. 1. *Karpūramañjarī* — This is perhaps the oldest of the poet's plays This belongs to the class of Sattaka This describes how King Candrapāla married Karpūramañjarī, the daughter of the Kuntala King, and thus became a paramount sovereign

The plot 2. *Viddhaśālabhañjikā* — This is a nāṭikā in four acts The author in many respects imitates the author of Ratnāvalī The story of the play runs as follows : King Candravarmā had no son So he sent his daughter Mṛgāṇkanāvalī, in the guise of a lad, under the name

of Mrgāṅkavarmā to the queen of king Vidyādharamalla. The king's minister knew who the disguised boy was. He tried to bring about her union with the king, for it was foretold that whoever would marry Mrgāṅkavarmā would become an emperor. Through some contrivance of the minister the king and the girl met and fell in love with each other. Vidyāsaka played some trick upon the Queen's confidante Mekhalā, whereupon she to have her revenge, gets the king married with Mrgāṅkavarmā in the guise of a woman. Then comes a messenger from Candravarmā to say that the king got a son and that the disguised Mrgāṅkavarmā was really the daughter of Candravarmā.

3. *Bāla Rāmāyana* This is a nātaka in ten acts and relates the whole story of Rāma from Sītā's svayaṁvara to the killing of Rāvaṇa and Rāma's return to Oudh.

Subject matter

4. *Bāla-bhārata* — The play is also called Pracanda Pāṇḍava and contains in violation of the rules of drama only two acts. The subject matter has been taken from the Mahābhārata. It describes the svayamvara of Draupadī, how Yudhiṣṭhira lost everything in gambling, how Draupadī was dragged into the Court of Duryodhana and how the Pāṇḍavas departed to the forest with their wife.

Story of the play

IX—MADHUSUDANA MIŚRA'S WORK.

History of
the play

The Mahānāṭaka—It is also styled Hanu-
mannāṭaka. There is a tradition that Hanu-
mān, a progeny of Pavana, composed it and
engraved it on a smooth rock but not being
satisfied with his composition he threw it
into the sea. Many years later a learned
prince had a great portion of it restored
by some expert divers who took impressions
of the book on wax. It is also said that
Kalidāsa, the brightest jewel of Vikramāditya's
Court, rendered it to a perfect drama.

Different
recensions.

Sometime after Madhusūdana Miśra, a
learned Pandit, edited the drama after arrang-
ing the ślokas. Since then he has been
accepted as the composer of the drama. *
But Macdonell says that the author of the
drama was Dāmodara Miśra, who flourished
in 11th century A. D. The play in nine
acts describes the supernatural actions of
Rāma and of Hanumān. Besides, it refers
to numerous allusions to other parts of
Hindu mythology.

Opinion of
Mr. Schuyler

Mr. M. Schuyler, Jr., A. M. in his "A Biblio-
graphy of the Sanskrit Drama" writes, "It has
fourteen acts in one recension and ten in the
other and thus violates the rule which requires

* मधुसूदनमित्रेण कृतं सन्दर्भशोभनम् ।

रामलीलीदयस्यास्य नाटकाशुक्रमेण वै ॥

that no (Sanskrit) drama shall exceed ten acts in length" † Prof. Macdonell also holds this to be of fourteen acts But Mahārājā Kālikrṣṇa Bāhādur, C M R A S, &c &c in his preface to the English translation of the Mahānāṭika says that he collected a dozen of Manuscript copies both ancient and modern, and each of these contained nine acts only ‡

The Hindus are of opinion that this is the first regular play on the same subject as the Rāmāyanā, but in fact Bhababhūti first dealt with the subject of the Rāmāyana in his Vīra and Uttara Caritam

Opinion of
eastern scho-
lars

It is quite without interest to the students of Sanskrit and is nothing but a collection of various authors

X—KRSNA MIS'RA'S WORK

Prabodhacandrodaya—This was written about the end of the 11th century by Kṛṣṇa-misra. This in six acts aims at the glorification of orthodox Brahmanism in the Viṣṇuīte sense This can be compared to the allegorical plays of the Spanish poet Calderon. Reason, religion, will &c have been personified

Subject ma-
tter.

† पञ्चादिका दशपरास्तवङ्गा परिकीर्तिता ।

साहित्य दर्पण ।

‡ Thus we see that the drama compiled by Dāmodara Miśra has either 10 or 14 acts, while that compiled by Madhusūdan has 9 acts only.

here, and various vices have been satirised
The poet has succeeded in attaining his aim

XI—VĀNA'S WORK

Authorship
of the work

Parvatī-parīṇaya—The drama is attributed to Kālidāsa but in reality it was not written by him. Some ascribe it to Vāmana, the rhetorician, but it seems probable that the work was written by Vāṇa, the court poet of Śrīharsa who flourished in the 7th century A D.

XII—KSEMIS'VARA'S WORK

Story of the
play

Candā Kausika—This drama was written by Kṣemiśvara about 1200 A D. This in five acts describes how Hariscandra through the curse of the angry priest Kausika (Viśvāmitra) lost his wife and child, the former being sold into slavery and the latter by death, how the patience of the monarch, though tried to the utmost, did not fail him and how in the end by divine intervention his son, his wife and his kingdom were restored to him.

We give below the short description of a few dramas with their authors and time.

Matta Vilās

13 *Mahendra Vikram*—He was a contemporary of king, Harṣa and wrote *Mattavilās* at the earlier part of the seventh century A. D. It is a farce.

Tāpasa Vat
sarāj

14 *Anaṅga Harṣa*—He wrote a drama called *Tāpasa Vatsa Rāj* in the eighth century.

A D The book describes the love story of Udayan and Vāsavadattā

15 *Mayu Rāja*—In the ninth century A D he wrote Udātta Rāghava describing the life sketch of Rāmcandra Here Rāmcandra did not kill Bālī from a covert but there was a hand to hand fight between them

Udātta Rāghava

16 *Murārī*—He composed Anaṅgha Rāghava towards the close of the ninth century A D His rivalry with Bhavabhūti has sustained a complete failure here

Anaṅgha Rāghava.

17 *Vilhan*—Towards the close of the eleventh century he composed Karṇasundarī in celebration of the marriage ceremony of Mīnalla Devī, daughter of the Karṇāta king Jaykeśī with Karna Dev, king of Anihīlvar

Karṇa Sundarī

18 *Jaydev*.—He wrote Prasanna Rāghava in the 12th century A D This too deals with the life of Rāmcandra

Prasanna Rāghava

19. *Rūpa Gosvāmī*—In the 15th century A D he wrote Vīḍagḍha Mādhava and Lalit-mādhava describing the transcendental love between Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. He composed besides, Vanakelī Kaumudī which falls under the section Bhāṇā

Vīḍagḍha Mādhava and Lalit Mādhava

20 *Uddandī*—His Mallikāmārut was written about 1700 A D The author is quite distinct from Daṇḍī, the author of Kāvyaḍarśa

Mallikā Māruta.

21. *Kāncanācāryya*—He is assigned to the 12th century A D. His Dhanañjaya Vijay

Dhanañjaya Vijaya.

describes the recovery of Virāta's cattle by Arjun when they were being carried off by the Kurus This drama belongs to Vyayoga class

Pārijāt Ha-
raṇa

22 *Umāvatī Dhar*—He was a contemporary of Jaydev and lived in the court of Laksanasen of Bengal. He wrote Pārijāta haran in the first half of the 12th century A D It is a dramatic piece of Rūpaka class The subject matter has been taken from the Mahābhārat

Lātakāmelaka-

23 *Śaṅkhaḍhar*—He lived under the patronage of King Govindacandra who flourished between 1115 and 1143 A D He wrote a Prahasan called Latakāmelaka to entertain his royal master at a spring festival

Yajāti Carit

24 *Rudradev*—He wrote a drama, Yayāticarit which describes in seven acts the intrigue of Yajāti with Śarmisthā and terminating in his union with her It describes also his reconciliation with Devayānī

Dūtāṅgada

25 *Śubhata*—He lived during the reign of King Kumāra Pāl (1088—1172 A D) He wrote Dūtāṅgada describing the embassy of Aṅgada for negotiation with Rāvana

Saugandhikā
Harāṇa

26 *Viśvanāth*—He lived under the patronage of Pratāp Rudra Deva (1294-1325 A D). He wrote Saugandhikā Harāṇa about the beginning of the fourteenth century A D. The plot is based on the story of the Mahābhārat in which Draupadī being attracted

by the beauty of flowers brought by a Gandharva requests Bhīma to fetch some more for her. There is a long vehement altercation between Bhīma and Hanumān.

27 *Bhāskara*—His *Unmatta Rāghva* was written to entertain an assembly of the learned that met together to pay homage to Vidyā-ranya. It was written about the middle of the fourteenth century A. D. It describes in a single act the maddened soliloquies of Rāma on account of the sudden disappearance of Sītā in a shady garden where a trespasser would turn to a deer owing to Durvasa's curse. The whole story imitates closely the fourth act of *Vikramorvaśī*.

Unmatta Rāghava.

28 *Vāmana Bhatta Vānā*—He wrote *Śrīngārābhūṣaṇ* about the middle of the 15th century A. D. The book describes the amorous adventure of Vilāsa Śekhara.

Śrīngāra Bhūṣaṇa.

29 *Kṛṣṇadatta*—He lived under the patronage of King Puruṣottama Deva of Orrissā (1478-1503 A. D.). His *Purañjaya carit* describes in five acts the story of Purañjaya as narrated in the *Bhāgavat Purāṇ*. His *Kuvalāsvīya*, a drama in seven acts, describes how a Vedic student fell in love with a maiden Madālasa by name. The poet was intimately familiar with the dramatic literature of the day.

Purañjaya Carit

30 *Mathura Dās*—He wrote *Vṛṣa Bhānujā*, a *nāṭikā* in four acts, that describes

Vṛṣabhānujā

the love of Śrcekr̥ṣṇa and Rādhā He flourished about 15th century A D

Śreedām
Carit.

31 *Sāmarāja Dīksit*—He lived at the latter half of the 16th century He wrote Śreedām Carit, a drama in 5 acts The subject matter of which has been derived from the 10th skanda of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa

Kamśa Ba-
dha

32 *Kṛṣṇa Kavi*—He was patronised by Todarmalla, the finance minister of the Emperor Akbar He wrote Kamsa vādhā, a drama in seven acts, at the earlier part of the 17th century The book describes the death of Kamsa at the hands of Śreekr̥ṣṇa

Caitanya
Candrodaya

33 *Kavi Karnapur*—He was born in 1525 A. D His Caitanya Candrodaya describes the history of the reformer Caitanya after the model of Prabhodha Candrodaya

Abhi Rāma
Maṇi

34 *Sundara Mīśra*—He lived about the end of 16th century A D His Abhirāma-maṇi describes in seven acts the whole life of Rāma

Nala Carit.

35 *Nilkantha*—He wrote Nalacaritam It describes the history of Nala in seven acts The work is based upon Śrī Harsa's Naiṣadha caritam

Jānakī Pa-
riṇaya

36 *Ramabhadra*—He flourished about 1638 A D His Jānakī pariṇaya describes in seven acts the marriage of Rām and Sītā. The plot has very skilfully been woven,

Very often he deviates from the original. There is an inter drama enacted at Rāvan's court. The style is learned and amusing.

37 *Atirātra Jajvā*—His Kuśa Kumudvatī describes in five acts the love of Kuśa, the eldest son of Rāma, and Kumudvatī, the princess of the Nāga clan

Kuśa—
Kumudvatī

38 *Cakraḥavi*—He flourished about the first half of the seventeenth century A D. He wrote three dramas, viz Jānaki parinaya, Gaurī Parinayā and Draupadī Parinaya

Jānaki Parī-
paya etc

39 *Candra Sekhar*—His Madhurāniruddha, a drama of eight acts, describes charmingly the love of Aniruddha and Uśa, daughter of King Vānā. He flourished about the second half of the 17th century

Madhurāni-
ruddha

40 *Mahādeva*—He wrote Adbhut Tarpaṇ at the first half of the seventeenth century. The book describes the war of Rāma with Rāvana beginning from Hanumān's return from Lankā

Adbhut Tar-
paṇa

41. *Vaidyanāth*—He wrote *Caitra Yajña* in the eighteenth century. The drama describes in five acts the legends of Dakṣa.

Caitra Yajña.

42 *Rāma Varmā*—His Rukmīṇī Parinaya written towards the close of the eighteenth century describes in five acts the marriage of Kṛṣṇa and Rukmīṇī

Rukmīṇī
Parinaya

43. *Rāmeśvar*—He flourished in the earlier part of the eighteenth century His Candrābhisek describes the over-throw of the Nandas by Cānakya and the coronation of Candra Gupta. He imitates Viśākha Datta both in style and subject-matter

Candrābhisek

44. *Sankar Dikṣit*—He wrote Pradyumna Vijay, a drama of seven acts The book describes the victory of Pradyumna over Vajranābha, the Daitya chief The subject has been derived from Hari Vamsa It was composed in the first half of the eighteenth century on the occasion of the coronation festival of King Subha Singha

Pradyumna Vijaya

45. *Viśveśvar*—He wrote Nava-mallikā, a Nāṭikā in four acts, in imitation of Ratnāvalī Besides, he wrote Śringāra Mañjarī, a sattaka in pure Prākṛt in imitation of Rāja Śekhara's Karpūra Mañjarī The poet flourished in the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

Nava Mallikā

46. *Ananda Rāja Mahin*—He lived at the earlier part of the eighteenth century. Of his dramas the Jibānanda, a Nāṭak complete in five acts and the Vidyā parinaya consisting of six acts have come down to us

Jibānanda

47. *Candra Kanta Tarkalankara*—He wrote Kaumudī Sudhākara. The drama falls under prakarana class It was published in 1887 A.D. and written on the occasion

Kaumudī Sudhākara

of the marriage ceremony of Hemcandra and Cārucandra

48 *Pandit Pañcānan Tarkaratna*—He wrote Amaramangalam It is a drama in eight acts It was written on the occasion of Sarasvatī festival The drama describes the life of Amar Singh of Rājputanā

Amaraman
galam

Later plays —Of the later plays we give below the names of only a few with the names of their authors against them

- (1) *Añjanāpavanamjaya* —Hastimalla
- (2) *Vasumatīcitrasenavilāsa* — Appaya Dikṣita

(3) *Candīvilāsa* —Rudra Śarmā

(4) *Virāja Sarojinī*—Haridās Siddhānta Vāgīśa etc

Thus we see that the drama has had a continuous existence from the 4th century B. C down to the present time

Exercise

1. Give an account of the origin and history of the Sanskrit drama. What would you consider the distinctive features of Kālidās's poetical genius. 1909 P

2. Give an account of the history of the Indian drama and give the characterisation of that drama as contrasted with the drama of Western nations 1909.H

3. Name and characterise the the principal Sanskrit lyrics. 1910 P.

4. State with examples the principal characteristics of Indian drama 1911 P

5. Give a survey of Indian ethical poetry Quote any specimen you may remember 1911 H, 1818 P, 1920P, 1927 P

6 What may be conjectured as to the source of dramatic literature in India ? Compare and contrast special excellences of Kālidās and Bhabt̥bhūti 1911 H 1922 H

7. Give a survey of Indian lyrical poetry with details as to either the Meghadūt, the Gita Gobinda or Rtusamhāra 1925H, 1932H, 1933P.

8. Point out the characteristic excellences of Kālidās—1913 H

9 Trace the development of the Sanskrit drama 1915P, 1917P. 1918P 1920H

10 Describe the origin and character of the Indian Drama. 1916P.

11. On what points do Sanskrit dramas resemble the dramas of Shakespeare ? Or what distribution of

dialects is usually adopted for actors of various ranks in Sanskrit dramas 1928 P

Ans :—

“पुरुषाणाम् अनौचाना स स्मृतं स्यात् कृतात्मनाम् ।
 शौरसेनी प्रयोक्तव्या तादृशीनाञ्च योषिताम् ॥
 आसामेव तु गाथासु महाराष्ट्री प्रयोजयेत् ।
 अवोक्ता मागधी भाषा राजान्त् पुरचारिणाम् ॥
 चेट्टीना राजपुत्राणा श्रेष्ठाना चार्द्धमागधी ।
 प्राच्या विद्रुषकादीणा घूर्त्ताना स्याद् अबन्तिजा ॥
 स स्मृतं सप्रयोक्तव्यं लिङ्गिणीषूत्तमासु च ॥
 देवीमन्त्रिसुतावेश्यास्त्रपि कश्चित् तथोदितम् ।
 योषित्सखीषालवेश्याकितवाप्सरसा तथा ॥
 वैदग्ध्यार्थं प्रदातव्यं स स्मृतं तच्चान्तरान्तरा ।”

(साहित्यदर्पण VI)

12 Write all that you know of two important poets preceding Kālidās 1931P

13 What are the different forms of Indian drama ? Illustrate your answers with names of surviving dramas and short description where they may be necessary 1932P

CHAPTER XII

FAIRY TALES AND FABLES

Characteristics

The abundant introduction of ethical reflections and proverbial philosophy is the distinct characteristic of fairy tales and fables. Another distinguishing feature of these collections is the insertion of a number of different stories within the frame work of a single narrative. The Vedic literature and Buddhist Jātakas are really a store-house of didactic fables.

Pañca Tantra.

The *Pañca Tantra* is a world literature in the truest sense of the term but unfortunately its original is lost and it has come down to us only through translation. It has wandered from nation to nation through travellers, merchants and monks and thus has become the common property of all nations.

Division of the book

It is divided into five books. From the literary point of view, it is the most important and interesting work in this branch of Indian literature. It is written in prose with an admixture of verse. It was probably written in the first half of 6th century A. D. by Viṣṇu Śarmā.

Source of the book

The *Pañcatantra*, as some scholars say, must have been derived from Buddhist sources, as a number of fables can be traced to Buddhist writings. But this is not

agreed to by others, who acknowledge its independent growth.

The framework of the first book, entitled, "*Separation of Friends*," is the story of a bull and a lion. The main story in the second book, of the name of "*Acquisition of Friends*" deals with the adventures of a tortoise, a deer, a crow and a mouse. The third book called, "*The war of the Crows and the Owls*" points out the danger of friendship concluded between those who were old enemies. The fourth book by the name of "*Loss of what has been acquired*", illustrates how fools can, by flattery, be made to part with their possessions. The fifth book, which is called "*Inconsiderate Actions*" contains a number of stories connected with the experiences of a barber.

Names of chapters and their subject matter

The book is also known as *Tantrākhyāyikā*. The meaning of the word *tantra* is doubtful. This may either refer to chapters or the sources from which it has extracted its subject matter.

Hitopadesa—Another work of the similar nature is the celebrated *Hitopadesa*. It is based chiefly on the *Pañca-Tantra*. *Hitopadesa* is divided into four books,—*Acquisition of Friends*, *Separation of Friends*, *War*, and *Peace*. The first two books agree with the first two books of the *Pañca-Tantra*.

Subject matter and its relation with *Pañca Tantra*

but in inverted order It is said in the book that Nārāyana, who lived in the court of Dhavala Candra, composed it for the sons of Sudarsan, king of Pātaliputra

Nature of
the books

These two books belong to the class of literature, called, "*Science of Political Ethics*" The Nīṭisāra of Kāmandaka is one of the sources of the maxims introduced by the author of the Hitopadeśa

Vetāla
Pañcaviṃśatī

A collection of Fairy Tales, with a highly oriental colouring, is the *Vetāla Pañcaviṃśatī* King Vikrama of Ujjain solves herein 25 problems of a Vetāla and is favoured by him This work is known to the English reader under the title of *Vikrama and the Vampire*

Vikrama
Carit

Another collection of the fairy tales is the *Śimhāsana Dvātriṃśat*, which goes also by the name of *Vikrama Carita*. Both this and the preceding one are of Buddhist origin

Suka
Saptatī

Suka-saptatī — This is a prose romance written by some unknown author It describes the story of a woman whose husband is abroad and who is inclined to run after another man She asks the advice of her parrot about this The bird tells a story to her every day and thus makes her pass seventy days after which the husband returns This gave rise to the composition of

Sukaspatati or the seventy stories of the parrot

Kathā-Sarīt-Sāgara—It is a book of this type Its author is Somadeva, a Kāśmīrian poet, who wrote it about 1070 A D This book has direct allusion to Buddhist birth stories The author states the real basis of his work to have been *Vrhatkathā* of Guṇādhyaṃya (200 A D) Kṣemendra Vyāsadhā (1000 A D) composed *Vrhatkathāmañjarī* The *Kathā Sarīt-Sāgara* along with the main story contains the first three books of the Pañca-tantra and the Vetāl Pañcaviṃśati. It is a store-house of various other rare topics also

*Kathā Sarīt
Sāgara*

The book is divided into 18 sections called *Lambakas* and subdivided into 125 chapters called *Tarangas* The book describes the adventures of Udayana and his son Narabāhana Datta in details

CHAPTER XIII

INDIA AND THE WEST.

Owing to the frequent contact of the Indians with foreign invaders, the literature of India and the West were mutually influenced.

The Epic.—The Greek rhetorician Dio Chrysostomos finding some similarity in the leading characters of the *Mahābhārata* with those of the *Iliad*, supposes the former to be a translation of the latter. It is also said that the worship of Kṛṣṇa is but an outcome of the influence of Christianity. This theory is improbable on the very face of it. The evidences regarding the age of the Mahābhārata and the statements of Megasthenes and the Mahābhāṣya point to its existence before the Christian era. Prof. Weber's assumption of the Greek influence on the Rāmāyaṇa has been refuted by Prof. Jacobi.

Western influence on the Epics.

The Drama.—It is found in Philostratus's life of *Apollonius of Tyana* that Greek literature was held in high esteem by the Brāhmanas of India. Indian inscriptions mention Yavana or Greek girls sent to India as a tribute. Kālidāsa and other Sanskrit authors

Influence on dramatic literature

describe that the Indian princes were waited upon by Yavana girls. Kāma, the Indian god of love, has in his banner a dolphin (*makara*) resembling the Greek *Eros*. The existence of the above conditions led Prof Weber to believe that the Indians imitated the representations of the Greek plays performed at the Court of Greek princes in India. This is corroborated by the fact that the curtain of Indian stage is Yavanikā or "Greek partition". According to Prof Weber there is no internal connection between Indian and Greek drama. Prof. Windisch goes a step further and says that there is internal connection. The *Mṛcchakatika* shows the influence of the new attic comedy. The points of resemblance are so meagre that they can be explained as independent development. Moreover there is no authentic proof if Greek plays were ever performed in India. The earliest Sanskrit plays extant existed 400 years before the Greek period. The word Yavanikā a reminiscence of Greek plays did not certainly form the back-ground of the stage and it is not certain if the Greek theatre had a curtain at all. Thus we see that these theories are baseless. The Indian dramas had a thoroughly national development. Some famous modern European dramas, on

Opinion of
Western
scholars.

A short cri-
tique on the
above.

the other hand, have been modelled on that of a celebrated Sanskrit play

Mutual influence of
Fairy tales
and Fables.

The Fairy tales and Fables.— In the sixth century A. D. there existed a Buddhist collection of fables in India. This work was translated by a Persian physician named Barzoi in Pehlevi under the patronage of Khosru Anushirvan, a Sassanian King. It has two important translations, one Syriac called *Kahlag and Damnag*, the other Arabic called *Kalilah and Dimnah* or "Fables of Pilpay". The Modern Bidpai or Pilpay is derived from Bidbah which corresponds to the Sanskrit word *vidyapati* (master of sciences). The Arabic translation is very important for, it being rendered into various European languages, shaped the literature of the Middle Ages in Europe.

Benfey and
Pañcatantra

Theodor Benfey in his epoch-making introduction to the German Translation of *Pañcatantra* has traced the history of the book and has laid down the foundation of comparative history and literature. The fame of *Pañcatantra* reached Persia early in the sixth century A. D. A North-western recension of the work was translated into Pehlevi by the Physician Burzoi by the order of the Persian king Khosran Anosserwen (531—579 A. D.) together with

some other Indian stories. The Syrian Chrisna monk Bud translated it from Pehlevi into Syrian about 570 A. D under the title of Kalilag and Damnag Abdulla Eleon Al Maquffa translated the Paficatantra into Arabic with his additions about 750 A. D under the name Kallta Wa Dimna (the corruptions for Karataka and Damanaka)

Various
Translations.

This Arabic translation was the source of many translations into European and Asiatic languages Philip Wolft the German translator of the Arabic version, has rightly said that it had been translated into most languages of the world next to the Bible. According to him the book inspired, more or less, all nations

Arabic Translation—its
importance.

In the eleventh century it was translated into Greek and from Greek into Italian, Latin, German and Slavonic languages. It was translated into Hebrew by Ravi Joel and the book came out in the beginning of the 12th century A. D

Other European
versions

It was translated from Hebrew into Latin by Joha of Kapua between 1263 and 1278 A. D. The German translation of these Latin versions exercised enormous influence on German literature.

Hebrew
Translation.

It is no wonder then if traces of Indian fables and tales be found in the most popular narratives in the work of Western literature, such as, the *Gesta Romanoren* and similar collections of monks and story tellers

Cause of
similar ideas

The relation of the Pañcatantra to Æsop's fables :—

Pañca Tantra
and Æsop's
Fables.

The Buddhistic collection, the *Pañcatantra*, and the collections of *Æsop* and *Babrius* have some points of resemblance between them. The comparative study of the animal and bird fables, such as, the fable of the lion and the jackal, of the fox and the raven &c, which are natural to the Indian fable but have no basis in fact in the Grecian fable, shows the priority of the Indian fables. According to Profs Weber and Benfey, the Indians, though they had a number of independent fables of their own, borrowed some fables from the Greeks.

Europe is thus indebted to India for its mediæval literature of fairy tales and fables.

Book of
Barlaam and
Joasaph.

It would not be out of place here to mention the book of *Barlaam and Joasaph* composed by a pious Christian monk in the middle ages, which has a great resemblance with Buddhist literature, specially with *Lakṣmīstar*. The work was probably first composed in the Pehlevi language in

the 6th or 7th. century A. D. and afterwards translated into Arabian and Syrian. The Greek version was perhaps derived from the Syrian translation. It was then reduced into Latin and was the source of all translations in European languages.

Philosophy—It is found that the early Greek and the Indian philosophies have many points in common. Some leading doctrines of Greek philosophy are to be found in the philosophy of the Upanishads and the Vedānta. The doctrine of Empedocles again (the doctrine of Satkāryavāda) is found in the Sāmkhya system. Taking the Greek tradition that Thales, Empedocles, Democritus and others went to the oriental countries to study philosophy to be true, it can be said that the Greeks were influenced by Indian thoughts through Persia. The dependence of Pythagoras on Indian philosophy and science in respect of each of his doctrine, religious, philosophical or mathematical, supports the above view. Besides, we learn that Indian savants resided in Baghdad for teaching purposes.

Influence on
Philosophy

Science—With regard to various branches of science, the Indians and the Western people were mutually indebted.

On Science.

Mathematics.—In mathematics the world is indebted to India. The originality of the

On Mathema-
tics

Indians in this respect is surpassingly great. The Indians invented a system of notation and the decimal system which are used all over the world. India again became the teacher of Arabia and Persia and through them of the West in the middle ages. Geometry originated in India from the rules of construction of sacrificial altars. *Sūlva Sūtras* are the oldest mathematical writings of the Indians.

On Astrono-
my

Astronomy—In *Astronomy* the Indians are considerably indebted to the West. The Indian Astronomy though rich at an early stage was affected by that of Greece. This is borne out by the words of Greek origin (e.g. *Ara*, *Helī*, *Tyan*, *Kendra*, *jāmitra*, *horā* &c) employed in Indian Astronomical treatises. Thus Varāha Mihir's *Horā Śāstra*, the *Romaka-Siddhānta* &c also bear testimony to the above fact. At a later period the Western Astronomical treatises were influenced by those of the Indians. The *Siddhāntas* attributed to Brahmagupta were translated by the Arabs who in their turn taught these to the Europeans during the 8th and the 9th centuries. Bhāskarācārya was the last Indian to further the cause of this branch of science.

On Medicine,

Medical Science—We have said before that the Chapters of the *Atharvaveda*

dealing with medicine are a compendium of early medical science. It has also been stated that it was the infancy of medicine, while, the Caraka and Susruta were the products of its mature age and that after Bāgvata the science was on its wane. It is very difficult to say if Indian medical science was influenced by that of the West or the latter by the former. The advanced type of knowledge found in Caraka proves that Indian medical science exercised a great influence over that of the West where no appreciable development was made before the ninth and tenth centuries.

Chemistry—Alchemy flourished in Arabia and Egypt under Geber and others. This science was introduced into Europe through them. It is seen from *Tantra literature* that Chemistry had an independent development in India at a very early period. Besides, the process of dyeing, iron-melting, preparations of various compounds etc. were also known in India.

On Chemistry.

Games.—Chess play originated from Sanskrit Caturanga and was introduced into Europe through Arabia. Thus we see that India exercised an influence over the West in this case also. By the 18th century A. D. it became a popular play in Europe.

On Games

On Arts and
Industries

Arts and Industries—India has been famous for her woollen, silk and cotton goods from a very early time. She would send these and other valuable articles of various sorts to European and other ports. They were highly prized by the peoples of the West.

CHAPTER XIV

SPECIAL LITERATURE

The names of a few special branches of literature with the names of their authors, and accepted dates are given below without any elaborate treatment.

Law

Of the secondary Dharma Sūtras of the post vedic period, the *Vaiṣṇava Dharma Śāstra* is the most important. This was most probably composed about 200 A.D. and is closely connected with the Kātnaka Gṛhya Sūtra.

Dharma Sūtras—the source of Law books.

The regular post-vedic law books are mostly written in verse. These though based on the Dharma Sūtras have wider scope than the latter. The Sūtras discuss only the matters of religion, while the Law books deal with atonement, foodstuff, government etc. along with this

Nature of Law Books.

1. *Mānava Dharma Śāstra* is the most important of the metrical Smṛtis. This has mostly been based on the Mahābhārata. It is said in the Nārada Smṛti that Manu at first composed his scripture consisting of a lac of ślokas and divided it into 1080 Chapters. This was reduced to 12000 slokas by Nārada

Manu Samhitā

and then to 4000 Ślokas by Bhrgu. The present Samhitā contains only 2385 slokas divided into twelve books, of which 260 are found in the III, XII, and XVI books of the Mahābhārata. According to Sir Willam Jones, Buhler and Max Muller, it was written about 300 B.C., while other Western scholars hold that it assumed its present shape at about 200 A.D. But the Hindus believe that it was composed about 4000 years before Christ.

There are some twenty commentaries on the Samhitā of which those of Medhātithi, Govindarāja, Nandana, Dharanīdhara, Rāghavānanda and Kullūka are important. Kullūka's commentary named मन्वर्थमुक्तावली is famous for its conciseness. It was written in Benares in the fifteenth century. The Samhitā has been translated by Buhler, Burnek, Manmatha Nāth Datta and others.

Commentaries

Yājñavalkya
Samhitā

2 *Yājñavalkya Dharma Śāstra*—This is next in importance to Manu Samhitā. It was written by the sage Yājñavalkya, the preceptor of King Janaka of Mithilā. It contains 1000 slokas and is divided into three books. It is based on the Dharma Sūtra of the White Yajurveda and was much influenced by the Pāraskara Gṛhya Sūtra. It has, no doubt, connection with

the Mānava Grhya Sūtra of the Black Yajurveda also It, according to the Western scholars, was composed about 350 A D

The celebrated commentary on the Samhitā is called the *Mitāksarā* of Viṇṇaneśvara, who flourished about 1100 A D. This was followed not only in the Dekhan but also in Benares and a great part of Northern India It has now acquired great importance in the Anglo-Indian law-courts.

Mitāksarā.

The oldest commentary of the Yājña Valkya Samhitā was written by Viśvarūp about the ninth century A D Viśveśvar Bhatta and Vālām Bhatta wrote two expositions of *Mitāksarā* known as *Suvodhinī* and *Vālāmbhatti* respectively

Commentary
of Viśvarūp.

Suvodhinī
and *Vālāmbhatti*.

Aparārka, King of Kankan, wrote a commentary on the Yājña Valkya Samhitā called *Aparārka* after his name The author lived in the middle of the twelfth century A. D It is followed in Orissa and Kāśmīr. Besides, there is another commentary, 'Dīpakalikā' on it written by Śūlapāṇi

Aparārka.

3 *Viṣṇu Samhitā*—It was derived perhaps from the Kāthaka Śakhā of the Yajurveda. Mention is made here of the Mleccha kings and many modern holy places. It was commented on by Nanda Pandit under the name of *Vaijayanti*.

Viṣṇu Samhitā and its
commentary

4. *Nārada Smṛti*.—This has some 12000

Nārada
Saṃhitā

slokas in it and is chiefly founded on the code of Manu. Of the metrical law books this is the only one that does not overstep its boundary. The date of the book is probably 500 A. D.

Parāśara
Saṃhitā.

5 *Parāśara Smṛiti*—This contains some 565 ślokas, divided into 12 books. This refers clearly to the practice of widow-marriage. This was written by Parāśara probably in the 1200 A. D. The dictum (कलौ पराशर स्मृत.) shows that it is suitable to the present age.

DHARMA NIBANDHAS

Caturvarga-
Cintāmaṇi
and Dharma-
ratna.

From 1000 A. D. onward a number of legal compendia termed Dharma Nibandhas were produced in India. Of these Hemādri's *Caturvarga Cintāmaṇi* (1300 A. D.) and Jimūtavāhana's *Dharmaratna* (1500 A. D.) are important. The former is a repository of interesting quotations from the Smṛtis and the purāṇas, while, the latter contains the famous treatise entitled *Dayabhāga* or the law of inheritance.

(a) *Dharma Śāstras and Nibandhas followed in Bengal*

Jimūtabāhan is said to be the founder of the Smārta views in

Bengal His Dāyabhāga is a famous Smṛti Nibandha. As regards the distribution of wealth (Dāyabhāga) there is a difference of opinion between this and Mitākṣarā. Śrīkar wrote Dāya Nirṇaya on the same subject. Jīmūtabāhan was born at Pārigrām in the district of Burdwan, situated on the bank of the river Ajay. He flourished towards the close of the eleventh century.

Dāyabhāga
and Dāya-
nirṇaya.

Dāyabhāga of Jīmūtabāhan was commented by several persons. Of these Curāmani of Śrināthācārya, Subodhini of Śrīkrṣṇa Tarkālankār and two other commentaries written by Acyuta Cakravortī and Mahesvar Pandit are important.

Raghunandan's Astāvimsatī Tattva is a very famous work on the Smṛti Śāstras. He has invariably followed Jīmūtabāhan and added things which were not dealt with by Jīmūtabāhan and filled up the gaps left by his predecessors. Kaśīrām Vācaspati has written a commentary on his Dāya tattva.

Astāvimsatī
Tattva.

(b) *Dharma Śāstras etc followed in the Deccan*

The commentary 'Mitākṣarā' is followed in the Deccan also. Besides, Smṛti Candrikā of Devānanda Bhatta written in the 13th century and the Sarasvatī Vilās of Pratāp

Smṛti
Candrikā
and Sarasva-
tī vilās.

Rudradev occupy a prominent place there Towards the close of the 13th century A D Hemādri wrote Caturvarga Cīntāmaṇi, a grand work on Smṛti In the 14th century Mādhavācārya wrote two other books on this subject called Dāyavibhāg and Parāsar mādhaṇya Besides Varadarāj wrote Vyāvahār Nirṇaya in the 16th century A D

(c) *Dharma Śāstras etc followed in the Western India.*

Nirṇayasīn-
dhu Vīrami-
trodaya

Vyābahāra Mayūkha of Nilkantha written in the 16th century A D occupies a prominent position in Western India and Bombay Presidency Of the other books followed there, the Nirṇaya Sīndhu of Kamalākar Bhatta and Vīramitrodāya of Mitra Mīśra are very important

(d) *Dharma Śāstras etc followed in Mithilā*

Vivāda
ratnākara and
Vivādcandra

Vivāda Ratnākara and Vivāda candra are two important works written by Candēśvar Thakur in the 14th century A D. Madan Pārijāt of Vireśvar Bhatta written about a century before Vivād Ratnākara is highly honoured there Vivād Cīntāmaṇi of Vācaspati Mīśra, (he should not be confounded with Vacaspati Mīśra, the famous philosopher and the great commentator of many

Philosophical systems) are held in high esteem in Mithilā

(e) *Dattak Nibandhas*

Dattak Candrikā of Raghumani and Dattak Mīmāṃsā of Nanda Pandit are the two important works on this subject

Dattak
candra etc.

HISTORY

The Rājataranginī, a chronicle of the Kings of Kāśmīra, is the only book known of the nature of modern history. This was written in 1148 A.D. by Kalhaṇa, a poet of Kāśmīra. It contains about 8000 Ślokas. The early part contains legends only. The poet has given names of many historians in his book, but their works are not now available. Nīlmat Purāṇa which is older than Rājataranginī has descriptions of many royal dynasties.

Rājataranginī
and Nīlmat
Purāṇa

MATHEMATICS & ASTRONOMY

The earliest works on Astronomy are the four treatises called Siddhāntas. Of these only Sūryasiddhānta is now extant. The doctrines of such works were reduced to practical form by Āryabhatta, born 476 A.D. He maintained the rotation of the earth round its axis and explained the cause of eclipses of the sun and the moon.

Sūryasi
ddhānta

Varāha-mihira (505 A D) composed four works, three astrological and one astronomical,—the *Bṛhat Samhitā*, the *Bṛhat* and the *Laghujātakas* and the *Pañcasiddhāntika*. The last one is a practical treatise on astronomy based on the *Siddhāntas*

Bṛhatjyātak
etc

Brahmagupta, a distinguished astronomer, born 598 A D, wrote a *Karaṇa* and also his *Brahmasphutasiddhānta*

Brahmasphu-
tasiddhānta

The last eminent writer on the subject is Bhāskarācārya, born 1114 A D. He wrote *Siddhānta Śiromaṇi*

Siddhānta
Śiromaṇi

Śrīdharaācārya composed *Gaṇitasāra* in the 10th century A D. He has dealt with the principles of Algebra here

Gaṇit Sār

In 932 A D. Muñjala wrote *Laghumānasa* and in 11th century A. D. Bhojarāja wrote *Rājamārtanḍa*. About that time Padmanābha composed a book on Algebra

Laghumānas
and *Rāja*
mārtanḍa

Jyotirvidyābharnam—It is attributed to Kālidās, but most probably it was written by some at a later period

Besides these we get the following books on astronomy and astrology.—

1 *Siddhānta Sundar*—by Mānarāja in 1503 A. D.

2 *Makaranda*—by Makaranda in 1478 A. D

3 *Graha Lāghava*—by Gaṇeśa in 1520
A D

4 *Siddhānta Rahasya*—by Rāghavā-
nanda in 1591 A D

MEDICINES

Caraka—Of the extant works on medicine, the *Caraka* is the oldest. The views of Sāṃkhya taken by the sage Caraka is distinct from and older than that preached by Iṣvarkṛṣṇa. At the time of Caraka there were six medical treatises composed by Agniveśa, Vela, Parāśara, Jātukarṇa, Hārīta and Kṣīrapāṇi. Caraka is the revised edition of Agniveśa Tantra. It is not certainly known when Caraka flourished. He might precede the Buddhistic era. Prof. Levy says that the Chinese edition of Tripiṭaka has clearly stated that Caraka lived at the time of the Buddhist king Kaṇṣka whose time has now been ascertained as 125 A D. Of the commentaries of Caraka those of Jejjata, Cakrapāṇi, Haricandra and Śivadās are important. Jalpakaḷpataru of Gangādhar is full of philosophical discussions.

Caraka—its
commenta-
ries

Suśruta—Caraka was followed by Suśruta. The Mahābhārat has described Suśruta as the son of Viśvāmitra. He was disciple of Dhanvantari. The Vārttika

Suśruta and
Nāgārjuna.

Sūtra of Kātyāyana mentions the name of Susruta. Bauddha Tāntrik Nāgārjuna revised the treatise of Bṛddha Suśruta and added the last part to it. The Buddhist work 'Mahāvagga' mentions his name. He must have flourished before 5th century B. C. It was commented by Cakrapāṇi, Dalvana, Gayadās, Bhāskara and others. (See p. 188)

Nāgārjuna.

Nāgārjuna—He was a Buddhist monk. He acquired a name in the use of quick silver. He is said to have started the treatise on rejuvenation. His *Rasaratnākara* has been published. Herbs were mainly used during the time of Caraka and Suśruta. Use of metal was very rare. During the time of Nāgārjuna metals came to be used largely. Black sulphur of mercury was invented by him. He lived in the 1st century A. D.

Aṣṭāṅga
Hridaya

Vāgbhata—He was at first a Brāhmaṇa and then adopted Buddhism. His *Aṣṭāṅgahrdaya* is a famous work on medicine. His first work is 'Aṣṭāṅgasamgraha'. The *Aṣṭāṅgahrdaya* contains the essence of Caraka and Suśruta. It has been commented by Aruṇadatta and Hemādri. The author of *Rasaratna Samuccaya* is not identical with Vāgbhata, the author of *Aṣṭāṅgahrdaya*. Vāgbhata lived perhaps in the 2nd century A. D. The treatises of Vela and

Hārīta were extant during the time of Vāgbhata

Mādhavakara — Nīdāna Samgraha of Mādhavakar is a famous work. He has quoted often Caraka, Susruta and Vāgbhata. It was translated into Arabic in the 8th century A D. It has been commented by Vijaya-Raksita up to चरकरीयेन । It has also been commented by Śrīkantha. He flourished perhaps towards the close of the 6th century A D.

Nīdāna
Samgraha.

Vrnda — His work is known as "Siddha Yoga". He wrote also a vṛtti on it. Vyākhyā Kusumāñjali is a comment on it by Śrīkantha. He lived in the 9th century A D.

Siddhayoga.

Cakrapāni Datta — He is the author of famous Cakradatta. He has mainly adopted the views of Tantra and Tāntric medicines. In his work he has followed Caraka and Susruta. His work has been commented by Śivadāsa. His Cakra Samgraha imitates the Siddhayoga of Vrnda very closely. He lived in the 11th century A. D.

Cakradatta.

LATER TĀNTRIC WORKS ON MEDICINE

1 *Rasaratna Samuccaya* — It was written by Śomadeva in the 13th century A D. It combines the science of rejuvenation and treatment.

2 *Rasa Ratnākara*—It was written by Nityanāth who lived in the 14th century A D

3 *Rasa Hrdaya*—It was written by Govinda Bhāgavata in the 11th century A D

4 *Rasendia Sāra Samgraha*—It was written by Gopal Bhatta

5 *Rasendra Cūlāmaṇi*—It was written by Somadeva The author of this book is not identical with the author of Rasaratna Samuccaya

6 *Bhāba Prakāśa*—by Bhāba Miśra Dās was written in the 16th century A D

7 *Cikitsā Śārasamgraha*—It was composed by Vanga Sena He has given herein the cause and treatment of diseases

8 *Śaṅgadhar*—He has a treatise on medicine, besides his Śaṅgadhar Paddhati, a collection of poems

TREATISES ON THE QUALITY OF HERBS

1 *Dhanvatarīya Nighantu*—Compiled by Dhanvantari, the king of Kāśī is the oldest work of its kind

2. *Madanavinode Nighantu*—It was Composed by king Madnapāla or by his courtier.

3 *Rāja Nighantu*—It was composed by Narahari in Mārāthī language

4 *Dravyaguna Samgraha*—It was composed by Cakrapāṇidatta.

MUSIC

It has been said heretofore that Gandharva Veda is the source of music. This science was propagated by Isvara, Bharata, Hanumān and Kallināth. Somasvara in his Rāgavīrodha has given the opinion of all these four persons. He has given prominence to the view of Hanumān whose work was divided into seven chapters.

Source of
Music—its
propagation

According to Bharata and Hanumān there are six rāgas, viz, Bhairava, Kausika, Hindola, Dīpaka, Śrīrāga and Megha.

Rāgas

Dancing is of two sorts—tāṇḍava and lāsya.

Of the works on music the following are important —

1. *Sangita Makaranda*
2. *Sangita Sudarśana*—by Sudarsena.
3. *Sangita Ratnakar*—by Kallināth
4. *Sangita Dāmodara*—by Subhankara
5. *Sangita Nārāyaṇa*—by Purosottama.
6. *Sangita Nirṇaya* - by Vīranārāyaṇa.
7. *Sangita Darpana*—by Dāmodara
8. *Sangita Pārijata*
9. *Rāgavīrodha*—by Somanātha.

Some works
on music

Hindu music from various authors—By Rājā Śaurindra Mohan Tagore, edited in Calcutta, 1875, deserves mention in this connection.

ŚILPA ŚĀSTRA

Division of
Śilpa

This science was highly developed before the time of Buddha. Reference to temple etc., are found in the Rāmāyāna which was composed long before the birth of Buddha. This may chiefly be divided into three sections—(1) Architecture, (2) Sculpture and (3) Painting.

1. Architecture

Works on
architecture.

Vāstu Vidyā—It was edited by Gaṇapati Śāstrī in 1913. Viśvakarmā is said to be the god of the architects. Besides, he edited Mayamata in 1919, Manuśyālaya Candrikā in 1917 and Śilparatna in 1922. Mayamata has 34 chapters. This describes city planning, palace-building and construction of images etc. Manuśyālaya Candrikā is divided into seven chapters and deals with house-building. Śilpa ratna is divided into two parts. The first describes in 46 chapters architecture and the second in 35 chapters sculpture. He has edited also Samarāṅgaṇa Sūtradhara in 1928. This book has description of constructing machinery etc.

Yuktikalpataru—It has been published by Pandit Iśvara candra Śāstrī in 1917. The book contains 23 chapters and deals with house-building.

Brhat Samhitā—of Barāha Mihir also describes house-building (53rd chapter) and gives the characteristics of palace (56th chap) *Viśvakarmā Prakāśa* is a book on architecture It has been published from Bombay in 1913 Besides, 252—257 chapters of the *Matsya Purāṇa*, 46—47 chapters of the *Garuda Purāṇa*, 104—106 chapters of *Agni Purāṇa* etc have discourses on this subject.

2 Sculpture.

58th chapter of the *Brhat Samhitā* and 4th chapter of *Śukra Nīti* have discussions on various images of gods The *Viśnu Dharmottara* in its 3rd section gives the characteristics of images The *Matsya Purāṇa* (259 ch) and *Agni Purāṇa* (49 ch) deal with special characteristics of images. Besides there are *Pratimā Lakṣaṇa*, of Ātreya, *Mayavāstu* of Kāśyapa on the subject.

Works on
Sculpture.

3 Painting.

Citra Lakṣaṇa translated into Tebetan language, *Viṣṇudhar Matottara* and the last chapter of *Śilparatna* deal with painting

METRES

Metres are of two kinds—Vedic and Classical The *Rgveda Prātisākhya*,

Works on
metres

the Sāṅkhāyana Śrauta sūtra, the Nīdāna Sūtra of the Sāmaveda, the Anukramanī of Kātyāyana and Chandah Sūtra of Piṅgala deal with Vedic metres. The last mentioned work deals with classical metres as well.

The classical metres are dealt with by Chandomaṇjarī of Gaṅgādāsa, Brtta Ratnākara of Kedāra Bhaṭṭa, Bāṇibhūṣaṇa of Dāmodara Miśra, and Śrutabodha of Kālīdāsa etc.

VAIṢṆAVA LITERATURE

A few
Vaiṣṇava
works

Brhat Bhāgavatāmṛta of Sanātana Bhāgavata Sandarbha (including six other Sandarbhas) of Jīva Gosvāmī, Bhakti Rasāmṛta Sindhu and Laghu Bhāgavatāmṛta of Rūpa Gosvāmī, and Govinda Litāmṛta of Kṛṣṇādas Kavirāja are the philosophical works of Caitanya Sampradāya.

Smṛti

Of the Smṛti works of this school, the Hari Bhakti Vilāsa of Gopāla Bhaṭṭa is famous.

Rhetoric.

Ujjvala Nīlmaṇi of Rūpa Gosvāmī, a treatise on rhetoric, deserves mention in this connection. His Nāṭaka Candrikā like Daśa Rūpaka explains dramatical figures clearly and lucidly. Kavī Karnapura's Alankāraustubha is also a good work in this section of the Vaiṣṇava literature.

Of the dramatical works Rūpa Gosvāmī's *Vidagdha Madhava*, *Lalita Mādhava* and *Banakeli Kaumudī*, Kavi Karna Pura's *Caitanya Candrodaya* and Rāmānanda's *Jagannāth Vallava* are important. Dramas.

Jīva Gosvāmī's *Gopāl Campū* and Kavi Karṇa pura's *Brndāvana Campū* are two elaborate works Campū.

Of the lyrical works Rūpa Gosvāmī's *Uddhava Sandeśa* and *Hamsa Dūta* and Kṛṣṇānanda Sārvabhauma's *Padāṅka Dūta* are important. They have been written in imitation of Kālidāsa's *Megh Dūta* Raghunātha's *Dāna Candrikā* and *Muktā Carita* also are noteworthy Lyrics.

Vaiṣṇava literature lacks in Kavya *Caitanya Caritāmṛta* of Kavi Karṇapura only can be mentioned in this connection. It describes in 22 Cantos the life sketch of Caitanya Kāvya.

Of the artificial poems the names of *Ram-kr̥ṣṇa Viloma Kāvya* and *Śuka-Rambhā samvāda* deserve mention. Besides these there is a number of lyrical poetry in the shape of adoration (स्तव or स्तुति) Artificial poems.

RHETORICS

Rhetorical treatises trace their origin to the vedic works Rgveda, the oldest work of the Indo-Aryans abounds

A short
notice of
Rhetorics.

in figures, specially simile and metaphor. The Nirukta of Yāska has specific instances of these two figures*, collated from the Rgveda. Pāṇini's aphorisms regarding उपमान, उपमेय and सामान्यवर्ष्य show that these things were known to people perfectly at that time. Agnipurāṇ gives a fuller account of rhetoric and grammar.

Bharata

Sage Bharata is said to be the father of treatises in relation to figures etc and drama. In his Nāṭya Śāstra he has mentioned the name of Druhiṇa and has given a short account of his views. In it we find the principles of rhetoric also in their germanic state. Bhaṭṭa Lallata, Śankuka and Bhaṭṭanāyaka have commented upon Nāṭya Śāstra in the light of Mīmāṃsā, Nyāya and Sāṃkhya philosophy respectively. Avinava Gupta has written a comment on it, named *Abhinava Bhārati* in the 10th century A. D.

Commenta-
tors of Nāṭya
Śāstra

The rhetoricians of the latter age may be divided into three groups—the old, the middle and the modern. Dandī, Bhāmaha, Rudrata, Bhaṭṭotbhata and Vāmana fall under the first group. In the opinion of these rhetoricians अलङ्कार is the back-bone of

*तद्रूपं तद्वर्षं तद्वत् तथेत्युपमा ३।१३। अथात, उपमा। यदेतत् तत्सादृश्यमिति गार्ग्यं। ३।१२

kāvya Some of them speak highly of the style also Ānandavardhana, Abhinava Gupta, Mahimbhatta and others occupy the middle position These lay stress on अङ्गि and try to establish व्यङ्गनाह्वयि । Of the modern rhetoricians the names of Mammata Bhatta, Jagannātha, Viśvanātha Kavirāj and others are noteworthy Many books have been written on the subject we give below the account of some of them very briefly

Rhetoricians—
their divisions.

1 *Dandī*—Kāvyādarśa of Daṇḍī is an important rhetorical work. In his work he has discussed and refuted the opinion of some old rhetoricians He is perhaps older than Bhāmaha and lived about 605 A D He has quoted Kālidāsa and Bhāsa*. The book is divided into three sections called *Paricchedas* The first defines Kāvya, their divisions and scope along with style and guṇas. The second describes figures and their divisions. The third deals with play upon words and metrical fault etc Besides Kāvyādarśa he wrote also Daśakumārcarita and Chandovicita He does not take figure as part and parcel of Kāvya

Kāvyādarśa—its time.

2 Bhāmaha Vṛtti has been commented upon by Udbhata Bhaṭṭa who lived in the court of King Jayapīḍa of Kāśmīra (779—

* लक्ष्मी लक्ष्मी तनीतीति ; “लक्ष्मीति तनीति etc ”

Bhāmaha
Vitti—its
commenta-
ries

813 A D) He quotes Kāśikā that was written in the earlier part of the 7th century A D So he may be placed in the 8th century Like Viśva āth he too does not acknowledge रस as the soul of Kāvya

Kāvya ālankār

3 *Rudrata*—His Kāvya ālankāra was written about 9th century A D The book is divided into 16 chapters and describes figures principally and comments on language secondarily Rudrata takes अलङ्कार as part and parcel of Kāvya He too like Bhāmaha does not think रस as the soul of Kāvya

Kāvya
Mīmāṃsā.

4. *Rajaśekhara*—He flourished in the earlier part of the 10th century A D. His Kāvya Mīmāṃsā describes chiefly शास्त्रसंग्रह, शास्त्रनिर्द्देश, पदवाक्यविवेक, अर्थानुशासन, कविचर्या and राजचर्या। Vābhat and Vāgbhat also flourished about this time and wrote respectively Vābhaṭāḷankār and Kāvya ānuśāsana

Kāvya ālankār
Sūtra Vitti

5 *Vāmana*.—He lived perhaps towards the close of the 9th century A D He composed Kāvya ālankār Sūtra with his own comment on it Kalhan makes him a contemporary of Jayāpīda of Kāśmīra According to him style is the soul of Kāvya* In this work he has dealt also with anomalous grammatical points very clearly

6 *Dhvanīkār*—According to Prof. Sobhānī Sahrdāya is the name of the author of the book. The book contains 129 Kārikās. The vṛtti of those Kārikās is known as Dhvanvāloka. It is not yet certain if the comment was written by the author himself. Abhinava Gupta who has commented upon Dhvanyāloka thinks the authors of the Kārikā and their vṛttis to be different persons. The author flourished in the earlier part of the 9th century A. D. According to him Dhvani is the soul of Kāvya * and स्फोट is at the root of this dhvani.

Dhvanī—its
commentary.

7 *Anandavardhan*—He is taken by some as the author of Dhvanyāloka. He lived during the reign of Avantivarmā of Kāśmīra. So his time may be assigned as 855—883 A. D.

Dhvanyāloka

8. *Abhinavaguptācārya*—His work is Dhvanyāloka. Locana, comment on Dhvanyāloka. It was written in 1013 A. D.

Dhvanyāloka
Locana.

9 *Kuntala*—Vakrokti-jivita is the work of the author. It was written in the 11th century A. D. along with his own commentary. The book is divided into four chapters called उच्छेध. According to him वक्रोक्ति plays an important part in the Kāvya†

Vakrokti
Jivita

* काव्यस्यात्मा ध्वनिः ।

† वक्रोक्तिः काव्यजीवितम् ।

Sarasvatī
Kāṭhābha-
raṇa.

10 *Bhojarāja*—He ruled between 996—1051 A. D. He was a learned man and a great patron of learning. His *Sarasvatī Kāṭhābharan* is a famous work on rhetoric. It is divided into five chapters. According to him style is included in शब्दालङ्कार. He wrote several other books and commented on Patañjali's '*Yogaśāstra*'

Kāvya-praka-
śa its com-
mentaries.

11 *Mammata Bhatta*—Of the modern rhetoricians he occupies a preeminently high place. His *Kāvya-prakāśa* is an authoritative work on rhetoric. He flourished perhaps towards the close of the 17th century A. D. Mammata wrote up to परिकरालङ्कार, the work was completed by अलङ्कारसूत्रि*. The book is divided into 10 chapters called Ullāsas. The author does not speak anything regarding drama. The popularity of the book is proved by its numerous commentaries. Of these *Samketa* of Mānikya Candra, *Dīpikā* of Jayanta, *Balacittānurañjinī* of Sarasvatitīrtha, *Kāvya-prakāś Darpan* of Viśvanāth and *Udyota* of Nagesabhatta are important. According to the author अलङ्कार is not a characteristic of Kāvya, but it only enhances its beauty. व्यङ्गना is the soul of Kāvya.

* "कृत श्रीमम्मटाचार्यवयै परिकरावधि ।

प्रबन्ध, पूरितः श्रेष्ठो विधायाल्लट सूत्रिणा ।"

12. *Joydeva*—He wrote *Candrāloka* in the 13th century A D. The book contains 350 verses divided into 10 chapters called Mayūkhas

13. *Viśvanāth Kaviraja*—As a rhetorician he is next to Mammata. His *Sāhitya Darpaṇ* deals with both ग्रन्थ and दृश्य kāvyas. According to Prof. Macdonell he is a Bengali, but some think him to be an inhabitant of Orissa. He flourished in the middle of the 14th century A D. Rāmcaran Tarkavāgisa's *Sāhitya Darpaṇ Vivṛti* is a good commentary.

Sāhitya
Darpaṇa

14. *Rupa Gosvāmī*—*Ujjāla Nilmaṇi* is the work of the author. The subject matter of the book is indicated by its name. It describes the love sentiment of Rādhā and Kṛiṣṇa. The author discusses the variety of नायकs, and some subtle matters also in it. He lived about the 15th century A D.

Ujjāla
Nilmaṇi

15. *Appayya Dikṣit*—His works on rhetoric are *Citramīmāṃsā*, *Vṛttivārtik* and *Kurālayānanda*. These have been written in a very clear and lucid way. The author lived between 1554–1626 A D.

Citra
Mīmāṃsā

16. *Jagannāth*—He wrote *Rasagaṅgā-dhar* between 1641–1650 A D. It is an authoritative work on rhetorics. The author could not finish the book. It was commented on by Nāgeṣa.

Rasagaṅgā-
dhar.

17. *Viśvesvara Surī*—His *Alaṅkāra Kaustubha* is indeed the middle gem of rhetorical works. It is full of grave discussions and pithy matters.

TREATISES ON DRAMATURGY

Nāṭya Śāstra of Bharat is the oldest work on dramaturgy. The book served as an authority in ancient India as regards the technique in literature and drama. In course of time the book fell into the womb of oblivion. Then the art was revived by Kohala, Sāṇḍilya and others. The *Bhāratīya Nāṭya Śāstra* is composed of 36 chapters or *Adhyāyas*. The following is a rough outline of the arrangement of chapters-

Nāṭya
Śāstra

1 Fabulous origin of the theatre
(Ch 36)

2 Construction of the edifice and the room (Ch 2)

3 Ceremonies of construction (Ch 3)

4 Religious preliminaries accompanied by music, dances and songs (Ch 4—5)

5 Choriographic art, play, dance, etc.
(Ch 9, 10, 14, 26, 27)

6 Poetics and rhetoric (Ch 6, 7, 17, 24, 25, 27,)

Subject matter arranged in order of chapters.

7 Grammar, language, dialects, metric, recitation, declamation (Ch 15, 16, 18, 19, 32)

9 Decoration, costume, play, scenery
(ch 14, 23).

10 Theory of music (ch. 28. 33)

11 Roles, characters, educations of actors
(ch 24, 25, 26, 35)

The book has been justly characterised by M Fitz Edward Hall as an "Institute of mimicries".

The Bhāratīya Nāṭya Śāstra, one may say, is a vast science in verse and in prose under the form of a dialogue not very animated, as in like compositions, between Bharat and numerous ascetics gathered round him. The principal metre used is *anustup*, other metres are also used casually. The prose appears frequently, specially for definitions and grammatical explanations which do not lend themselves easily to versification. The work is generally described as "Śrī Bhāratīya Nāṭya Śāstra".

Nature of
the work

Of the commentaries of the work "Bhuvanābhyudaya" of Śankuka, 'Abhinava Bhāratī' of Abhinava Gupta and a commentary by Bhaṭṭanāyaka are important.

Commentaries

Of the other works on the subject "Daśarūpaka" of Dhanañjaya (974-995), 'Pratāpa ruddhiya' of Vidyānāth (1275-1323) 'Ekāvalī' of Vidyādhara (1280-1314) and Sāhitya Darpaṇa (ch VI) of Viśvanāth (1360-1370) deserve mention. We should not omit Samudra Mīśra's 'Nāṭya Pradīpa' in this connection which was composed in 1613 A. D.

A few works
on drama-
theory

GRAMMAR

Grammatical points have been clearly discussed in the Brāhmaṇas and in some Upaniṣads as well. This shows that grammar, one of the Vedāṅgas was existent at that time. It is admitted that Yāska preceded Pāṇini. Besides, we find the mention of some 64 grammarians in the system of Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī.

A short
notice of
grammatical
literature.

Of these the names of Bharadvāj, Kāśīapa, Śākalya, Śāktāyan, Gārgya, Gālava, Cakra-Varmā, Senaka, Sphoṭāyan etc are important.

Names of a
few grammarians.

Personal
history of
Pāṇini

We do not know anything regarding the personal history of Pāṇini Patañjali in his Mahābhāṣya calls him 'Dāksi Putra Vyādi is said to be his nephew and his forefathers are said to have lived at Śālātur situated on the north western frontier province of India From Pañcatantra we get that he was killed by a lion It is said that he was a disciple of Varsa and taught grammar to Kautsa His work is indeed an admirable one The arrangement is not only methodical but scientific also It is divided into 8 chapters, each consisting of 4 Pādas

Kātyāyan—He is otherwise known as Vararuci He wrote not only Vārttik sūtras but the Prātisākhya of the Vāja Śani Samhitā also

Vrtti of
Kāt, āyan

He has written Vrtti on 1245 aphorisms of Pāṇini and has composed about five thousand Vārttik Sūtras In course of time these Vārttik Sūtras have been incorporated into the body of Pāṇini's system to remove its defects and incompleteness

Mahābhāṣya

Patañjali—He is the famous author of Mahābhāṣya According to old Pandits he composed Yoga Sūtra and published the revised edition of Carak He is otherwise known as Gonardiya and Ganikāputra Ga nika was perhaps the name of his mother and Gonarda the place where he lived But Vātsāyana takes these to be two different persons He thinks them to be different from Patañjali and supposes that they preceded Patañjali Patañjali in his Bhāṣya has discussed the Vrtti and Vārttika Sūtras of Kātyāna

Somewhere he has defended them and at other places refuted them also The language of the Bhāṣya is very simple But in many

places it is not easily understood as many grave matters have been discussed

In the middle of the 7th century A D Bhartrhari wrote Mahābhāṣya Dīpikā and Vākya Padiya Kaivāt in the 11th century A D wrote Mahābhāṣya Pradīp which was commented again by Iśvarānanda under the title of Bhāṣya Pradīp Vībaran In the beginning of the 18th century A D Nāgēs Bhatta wrote his Mahavāṣya Pradīpodyota

Commentaries on Mahābhāṣya

Besides Purusottam Dev wrote Bhāṣya Vṛtti in the 12th century A D.

KĀSIKĀ

In the middle of the 7th century A D Vāman and Jayāditya two famous Buddhist grammarians composed a very easy commentary on the system Astādhyayī under the name of Kāśikā Vṛtti It is not certain which portion of the work was written by Vāman and which by Jayāditya

Author of the work—their time

Some scholars think that the first five chapters of the book was composed by Vāman and the rest by Jayāditya

Towards the close of the 7th century A D or in the beginning of the 8th Jinendra Buddhī wrote Kāśikā Vībaran Pañjikā or Nyāsa upon Kāśikā Vṛtti This Jinendra Buddhī is not identical with the author of Jainendra grammar Haradatta Miśra wrote another commentary on Kāśikā known as Padamañjarī in the 11th century A. D

Notes on Kāśikā

Bhāṣā Vṛtti—Puruṣottam Deb wrote this on Loukīka aphorisms of Pāṇini alone He has quoted many famous Kāvya by way of illustrations This has been commented by Śrīśatdhara under the title of Bhāṣa

Bhāṣāvṛtti

Vittyartha Vīrti in the beginning of the 12th century A D Sarana Dev wrote Durghata Vrtti in 1173 A D to explain the difficult aphorisms of Pāṇini This Sarana Dev lived in the court of Laksmāna Dev

Rupamālā

Rūpamālā—In the fourteenth century Vimal Sarasvatī arranged the aphorisms of Astādhyāyī in accordance with different subjects treated in the grammar of Pāṇini He may be said to be the father of such kind of work Mādhavācāryya took only the roots and wrote famous Madhaviya dhātu vrtti It was followed by Rām candra's Prakryā Kaumudī written in the 15 century A D. Viṭṭhalācāryya wrote a commentary on it known as Prasād and Jayanta wrote another commentary on it known as Tattva candra

Siddhānta
Kaumudī

Siddhānta Kaumudī—Of the Prakriya Granthas Siddhānta Kaumudī occupies the most prominent position It was written by Bhaṭṭoji Dīksit in the earlier part of the 17th century A D He wrote a commentary on it called 'Bāla-manoramā' for the easy understanding of the boys and Praudha Manoramā also in a learned manner He began to write Śabda Kaustubha' in imitation of Kāśikā Vrtti but could not unfortunately finish it Hari Dīksit wrote Sabdaratnamonoramā, a comment on the Praudha monoramā Jnanendra Bhikṣu has written Tattva Vādhinī on the classical portion of Siddhānta Kaumudī

Commenta-
ries

Nāges Bhaṭṭa or Nāgoji Bhatta has written two commentaries on Siddhānta Kaumudī known as 'Śabdendu Sekhar' and Vṛhad Śabdendu Śekhar in the beginning of the 18th century A D Besides, he has written Mahābhāṣya Pradīpodyota on Kaiyata's Maha-

bhāṣya Pradīp and Paribhāṣendu Śekhar, a treatise on Paribhāṣā

Varada Rāj Dikṣit, a disciple of Bhattoji Dikṣit, has composed a treatise on grammar called Laghu Siddhānta Kaumudī having abridged the Siddhānta Kaumudī of his preceptor. Besides he has written two other books of the same nature known as Madhya Siddhānta Kaumudī and Sāra Siddhānta Kaumudī

Laghu Siddhānta Kaumudī

Pāṇinīya Dhātu Pāṭh

Kṣīra svāmī—a Kāśmīrian has written Ganavṛtti and a commentary on Dhātupāṭh. He flourished perhaps in the 11th century A. D. *Kṣīra Svāmī's* Gaṇa Vṛtti is not now available. In 1140 A. D. Vardhamān has written Ganaratna Mahodadhī in verses. It is an authoritative work on roots. This Vardhamān should not be confused with Vardhamān, son of Gangesopādhyāya

Gana vṛtti-

Ūnādi

It is said that Ūnādi Sūtras were written by Śakatāyana. But according to Daurga Sinha these were written by Vararuci. In the middle of the 12th century A. D. Ūjjaṇval Datta wrote ūnādi vṛtti

Ūnādi Sūtra

Non Pāṇinīan School

Kātantra or *Kalāp** - It is also called Kaumāra grammar. It is said that being asked by king Sātabāhan Sarva Varmā composed it for easy understanding of a novice. It is divided into four sections viz *Sandhi*, *Nāma*, *Ākhyāta* and *Kṛt*. The chapter on *Kṛt* was taken perhaps from the grammar

Kalāpa-

* शङ्करस्य मुखाद्वाक्यं शुलाचैव षडाननं लिखितं शिखिनं पुच्छं कलाप इति वध्यते ।

of Śakatāyana The chapter on Taddhit also seems to be a later addition.

Commenta-
ries

Parīṣiṣṭa

Daurga Sinha wrote a commentary on it under the title of Kātantra Vṛtti This is the oldest commentary on the work Daurga singha flourished perhaps in the 8th century A D Vardhamān wrote an exposition of this Vṛtti known as Kātantia Vistara Trilocaṇa Dāsa's Kātantra Pañjikā is a good comment on Kātantra Vṛtti This Pañjikā has been commented by Jina Prabhā Sūri, Kuśal and Rāmcandra, Kaviraj, Gopinath and Kulcandra Besides these there is a commentary on it called Dhundika

This grammar is mainly read in Bengal and in Kāśmīr

—Cāndra

Śrīpati wrote Kātantra Parīṣiṣṭa which has been commented by Gopināth, Rāmcandra, Śivarām and Pundarikākṣa Uttara Parīṣiṣṭa was added to Kātantra Parīṣiṣṭa by Trilocaṇa Dāsa

There is a great difference between the Kātantra Sūtra Pāth of Bengal and that of Kāśmīr

Candra grammar—It was written by Candra with his own Vṛtti The author was a Buddhist This grammar was discovered from Nepal by M M Hara Prasad Śāstri and from Tebetan language by Mr Bruno Libick The author flourished in the 5th century A D The book was commented by Dharma Dās.

Jīanendra grammar—It is said that this grammar was written by Mahāvīr The name of the book owes its origin to the fact that Indra in his childhood asked Jina the subject matter of grammar. In many man-

uscripts Devānanda is found to be the author of the book. This is supported by Hemcandra and Vopadev also. This grammar is older than Cāndra grammar. There are two recensions of the book, the one contains three thousand Sūtras with commentary, Abhayadāṇi Vṛtti and the other contains three thousand seven hundred sūtras with the commentary Śabdarnava candrikā by Somadeva Suhṛit. The author flourished in the fifth century A. D.

Abhinava Śākatayana grammar—This has been quoted by Hemcandra, Gaṇaratna Ma-bodadhī, Mādhaviya Dhātu Vṛtti, Bhopadev and others. This book is divided into four chapters each of which contains four *Pādas*. He flourished perhaps in the earlier part of 9th century A. D.

Śākatāyana.

Sārasvat grammar—The author of the book is Anubhūti Svarṇpācāryya. He flourished perhaps in the 13th century A. D. The book with seven hundred aphorisms has explained all the important subjects related to classical Sanskrit. Of the commentaries on the work the commentary by Amṛita Bhārati, the Siddhānta Candrikā of Rāmāśram, the Prasād of Vāsudev Bhatta, and the Sāra Pīa dīpikā of Jagannāth are important.

Sārasvat

Supadma—It was written by Padma nābha Datta. The author has followed Astādhyāyī in many respects. He flourished perhaps towards the close of the 18th century. The book has seven chapters *viz.* *Samyā, Sandhi, Kārak, A'khyat, Kṛt, Unādī* and *Taddhit*. The Vṛtti of this grammar and a commentary *Supadma Pañjikā* by name were written by the author himself. Besides, it has been

Supadma.

commented by Kāśīśvar, Śrīdhar Chakrabarty Rāmcandra others.

Sankṣipta-
Sāra.

Samkṣipta Sāra—It was written by Kramaśīvar. He followed the opinion Mahābhāṣya Dīpikā and has given illustrations mostly from the Bhaṭṭi Kāvya. He has given in brief the opinion of Pāṇini. The book is divided into eight chapters. The first seven deal with classical Sanskrit, while the last with Prākṛit language. Jumar Nandī in his commentary, the Rasa-Vatī on the grammar, has made good the defects found in the original. In importance the commentary of Goyī candra comes next to Rasavati. The commentary of Goyī candra has been explained by Keśav dev, Vamśi dev, Hari Rām and others.

Mugdha-
bodha.

Mugdha Bodha—The author of the book is Vopadev Gosvāmī. Besides, Mugdhabodh he has written Kavikalpa Druma and its commentary 'Kāmdhenu'. It is read widely now at Navadvīp and middle Bengal. Rāmtarka Vāgīś is the famous commentator of Mugdhabodh. It was commented besides by Devī Das, Kāśīśvar, Rāmānanda and others.

Prayoga-
Ratnamālā.

Prayoga Ratnamālā—It was written by Puruṣottam. He is distinct from Puruṣottam, the author of Bhāṣā Vṛtti.

We have several other minor grammars of which Harināmāmṛta of Rūpa Gosvāmī, Prabodh Candrikā of Vijjala Bhūpati, Govindānāmāmṛta of Govindanāth, Kārikāvalī of Dhattacaryya Chakrabarty, Bhoja Vyākaran by Vinaya Sundar are important.

APPENDIX A.

ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE VEDAS

On the question of interpreting the Vedas, the ancient sacred books of the Hindus, which differ greatly from classical literatures in point of language, style and matter, our learned European scholar Theodor Goldstucker shows great respect to the oldest commentators like Sāyana, Yāska, Mahīdhara and others. He holds that it is from the chronological position in which the works stand to one another that we may feel justified in appealing to the oldest commentators for right interpretation. For, the greater the distance between a Veda and the grammarian who appended to it his notes, the more we shall have plausible ground for looking forward, in preference to him, to that grammarian who stood nearer to the fountain head. Thus according to this view, even Pāṇini would cease to be our ultimate refuge if we find Yāska opposed to him and Gārgya, Śākala, Śakatāyana or the other predecessors of Pāṇini would deserve more serious consideration than himself, if we are able to see that they maintain a sense of a Vedic word which is differently rendered by him.

These remarks apply, of course, to the Samhitās which preceded pāṇini. But as to the literature which is posterior to him Kātyāyana becomes necessarily our first exegetic authority and after him comes Patañjali.

Let us now see what other European scholars have got to say on this question. Among others we find the most prominent name of Professor Roth who professes to be a teacher and authority on the subject. Professor Roth in

his preface to the great Sanskrit Dictionary published by the Russian Imperial Academy says in the following words.—“We do not believe, as H. H. Wilson does, that Sāyana better understood the expressions of the Veda than any European exegete, and that we have nothing to do but repeat what he says, on the contrary, we believe that a conscientious European exegete may understand the Veda much more correctly and better than Sāyana. We do not consider it our immediate purpose to obtain that understanding of the Veda which was current in India some centuries ago, but we search for the meaning which the poets themselves gave to their songs and phrases. We consequently hold that the writings of Sāyana and of the other commentators must not be an authority to the exegete, but merely one of the means of which he has to avail himself in the accomplishment of his task which certainly is difficult, and not to be effected at a first attempt, nor by a single individual. We have therefore endeavoured to take the road which is prescribed by philology to elicit the sense of the texts by putting together all the passages which are kindred either in regard to their words or their sense, a road which is slow and tedious, and which indeed has not been trodden before, either by the commentators or the translators. Our double lot has therefore been that of exegetes as well as lexicographers. The purely etymological proceeding, as it must be followed up by those who endeavour to guess the sense of words, without having before them the ten or twenty other passages in which the same word recurs, can not possibly lead to a correct result.”

If we analyse the ideas and principles presented in the passage quoted above, we get the following.—

(1) Sāyana gives us only that sense of the Veda which was current in India some centuries ago

(2) Professor Roth is far more able than Sāyana and other commentators to give us the correct sense of the Veda

(3) He can put together some ten or twenty passages referring to the same word, whereas Sāyana and other commentators could not do this, but had to guess out its sense.

(4) He is confining himself to the purely etymological process which is above that of these commentators

(5) His object is not to understand the sense of the Veda which was current in India a few centuries back, but to know the meaning which the authors of the hymns themselves gave to their songs and phrases

(6) Professor Roth is a conscientious European exegete

Adding these views of Professor Roth, Goldstucker deigns to criticise every point. He begins his criticism thus one by one —

(1) As regards the first point of attack against Sāyana that he and the other commentators give us only that sense of the Veda which was current in India some centuries back, he meets his opponent, saying that Roth's is a bolder statement that should not proceed from the lips of a scholar. Sāyana incessantly refers to Yāska. All his explanations show that he stands on the ground of the oldest legends and traditions, yet Professor Roth ventures to tell the public at large authoritatively and without a particle of evidence that these legends and his version of the R̥gveda are but some centuries old.

(2) On the 2nd point he presumes that he is more competent than Sāyana in the interpretation of the Veda. But Goldstucker is of opinion that when Roth says so, he

seems to declare that he has been familiar with all that Sāyana knew. When an author tells us that he is able to do that which another author cannot do, we are entitled to infer that he is at any rate thoroughly acquainted with all that this author has written. But the fact is that notwithstanding his stay in Paris, in London and in Oxford for the collection of the Vaidik commentaries of Sāyana for his lexicographical purposes, when he began his Dictionary he was only acquainted with the commentary of Sāyana as far as the first Astaka and when he wrote these lines he might perhaps have known its continuation up to a portion of the third Astaka, and yet he ventures to speak of the whole commentary of Sāyana and to say that he can do what Sāyana was unable to perform.

(3) On the third point Goldstücker finds Professor Roth insane. The statement that Sāyana cannot put together some ten or twenty passages in corroboration of the sense of a word like Professor Roth is more than puerile. Mādhava Sāyana, one of the profoundest scholars of India, the exegete of all the three Vedas, of the most important Brāhmanas and a Kalpa work, the renowned Mīmāṃsist, the great grammarian who wrote the learned commentary on the Sanskrit radicals, who shows at every step that he has Pāṇini and Kātyāyana at his fingers' ends, who on account of his gigantic learning and his deep sense of religion lives in the legends of India as an incarnation of Śiva,—such a great Mādhava had not, in the opinion of Professor Roth, the proficiency of combining in his mind or otherwise those ten or twenty passages of his own Veda, which Professor Roth has the powerful advantage of bringing together by means of his little memoranda.

(4). On the fourth point Prof. Roth accuses Sāyana of

giving us the meanings of Vaidik words on a purely etymological basis. There is, in the opinion of Goldstucker, too much of boldness in such an assertion. Goldstucker declares that he knows of no work which has come before the public with such unmeasured pretensions of scholarship and critical ingenuity. His Dictionary has given many meanings without the slightest regard to the grammatical proprieties of the word. But an etymological proceeding (which Prof Roth presumes to know) without a thorough knowledge of grammar is altogether a cypher.

(5) On the fifth point Prof Roth has got to say that he must not have understood the Veda such as it was current in India a few centuries back, but to know the meaning which the poets themselves gave to their songs and phrases. This is no doubt a very important point. If Sāyana gives us the sense of the Veda such as it was handed down to him from generation to generation from time immemorial and not a few centuries ago. How are we to know the revelations of the sages without having any regard to the learned commentators who are qualified to interpret them? Goldstucker makes here fun of Prof Roth saying that the latter has received a revelation at Tübingen like the former Rsis which has neither reached the bank of the Thames nor those of the Ganges. Who will not hail his revelation which dispenses with grammar and all that sort of thing, and who will not believe in it? Goldstucker then seriously declares that in those cases no critic has anything to do with the sense which the poets themselves gave to their songs and phrases, but he has simply to deal with that sense which religion or superstition imparted to the verses in order to adapt them to the imaginary effects of the sacrifice.

(6) On the 6th point Prof. Roth says that a conscientious European exegete may understand much more correctly and

and thoroughly the sense of the Veda than Sāyana Goldstucker criticises the view in the following way In scientific treatment Dr Bohtlingk stands in the fore front, but he himself is incapable of understanding even the easy rules of Pāṇini, much less those of Kātyāyana The errors in the department of the Dictionary which chiefly consist in the abolition of the radicals and nominal bases taught by Pāṇini and subsequent grammarians are of a peculiar kind and simply cancel all the categories of grammatical forms and those of the greatest importance and comprehensiveness But a Sanskrit Dictionary has no such aim The immediate object is the actual language which it has to deal with It must be taken as it is, its function is not to correct the real historical language, but to record its facts, and in doing so to collect the materials which are to be used by the specialists as well as by the comparative philologist So far as its direct purpose is concerned this is all it has to do Any observations it may choose to attach to the real historical facts may of course be given, but it shows another want of judgment, to say nothing else when it presumes to alter the very forms of the language itself

Alfred Ludwig was the first man to admit that the indigenous expounders are not to be followed blindly, but he at the same time believes that these expounders at least partly drew upon an uninterrupted tradition and therefore deserve to be respected He refers to the Nirukta, Sāyana and Mahīdhara and tries to judge them by their own merits

Ludwig was followed by Pischel and Geldner They combine the two methods of Prof Roth and Ludwig. They have shown conclusively that howsoever fanciful, irrational and inconsistent the explanations of Sāyana are as a rule

no one can any longer ignore them as Roth and Grassman have done, and yet call himself a Vedic scholar. We may meet with much of chaff, but a kern might be hidden beneath is worth the perusal.

Of the oriental scholars some join with Goldstücker in saying that only the Indian exegetes, Sāyana and his predecessors are able to interpret the Vedas aright, while others following Pischel and Geldner say that the Indian scholists with their traditional knowledge are eligible to interpret them being dependent upon the European scholars for their philological knowledge. The latter in our opinion is the right method which should be adopted to interpret the Vedas.

APPENDIX B.

RELIGIOUS SECTS.

There are five great religious sects to one or other of which every Hindu but a professed dissenter belongs. These are the Vaisṇava, the Śīktā, the Śāiva, the Saura and the Gāṇapaīya. Of these the first three are now popular and are found respectively, in the North-West, in and about Benares and in Bengal. These religious sects recognize the authority of the Vedas, Dharma Śāstras, Purāṇas and Taitras. All practices which are not derived from those sources are thought by them to be irregular and profane. Some of the sects have undoubtedly originated out of opposition to the Brahmanical order. These sects choose their teachers and disciples, from any class what-so-ever and they have no regard for the distinction of castes.

Every sect comprises two classes of individuals—*erical* and *lay*. The bulk of the votaries are generally of the latter order. The teachers are chosen from the ascetic or the cœnobic. The rallying points they have are styled the *lathas*, *Āsthānas* or *Ākhrās* scattered over the whole country. These have huts for the Mahānta and his pupils, a temple sacred to their *Istideva*, the Samādhī of the founder of the sect or some eminent teacher, and Dharmaśāla for those who come to visit the Mathas.

There are some twenty Sampradāyas of the Vaisṇavas. Of these the Rāmānujaś, Rāmānandīs the Kabīra jñthīs and Khākīs are the chief.

I Śrīsampradāyas or the Rāmānujas

This sect was founded by the Vaiṣṇava reformer Rāmānuja, a native of Peramber in Southern India, about the middle of the twelfth century. He spent his early life at Kāñchī and then resided at Śrīranga where he composed his principal works. Then he visited various parts of India and promulgated his peculiar doctrines.

Most of the Vaiṣṇavas follow his doctrine which asserts that Viṣṇu is Brahman, that he existed before the creation and is the cause and creator of all. In opposition to the Vedānta doctrines they regard God as endowed with qualities and with two-fold forms—Paramātmā or Kāraṇ and the Jīvāt-mā or Kārya. This doctrine is known as Viśiṣṭādvaita Vāda or the doctrine of unity with attributes. The world came out of Viṣṇu when He wished to multiply Himself. They also hold that the great cause of all is distinct from spiritual essence, whereas, the Vedāntins identify the paramātmā with Jīvāt-mā.

Viṣṇu is visibly present among men in five modifications—in his Archā (as images etc.), in the Vibhāvas (avatāras, such as, fish, tortoise etc.), in the Vyūhas (four different forms of Vāsudeva, Balarāma, Pradyumna and Anuruddha), in the Sūkṣma forms (comprising six qualities *vijaya*, absence of human passion, *Vimrtyu*—immortality, *Viśoka*—exemption from care or pain, *Vijghatsā*, absence of natural wants, *Satyakāma* and *Satyasankalpa*, the love and practice of truth), and as the antarātmā, the human soul. In order to attain perfection they have to worship in five different ways, viz, *Abhigamanam*, cleansing and purifying the temples etc, *Upādānam*, providing flowers and perfumes for religious rites, *nyā*, the presentation of offering, *Spādhyāya*, counting the

rosary and repeating the names of the divinity, and *Yoga* he effort to be united with the deity.

The temples appropriated to Viṣṇu and his consort and their several forms are decorated with the *sālagrāma* stones and the *Tulsī* plants

The Vaiṣṇavas mark their bodies with the foot prints of Viṣṇu and various fantastical streaks

The Rāmanujas are not very numerous in the north of India. They are decidedly hostile to the Śaiva Sect

2 *Rāmānandīs or Rāmwaṭs*

The followers of Rāmānānda address their devotion to Rāmacandra, Sītā, Lakṣmana and Hanumān. They are better known in upper Hindusthān than the Rāmānujas. They like the Rāmānujas keep the *Sālagrāma* stone and *Tulsī* plant in their *Mathas*

They are not so strict like the Rāmānujas in respect of eating and bathing, but follow their own inclination, and hence they are termed *Avadhūtas* or 'Liberated'.

Rāmānānda admitted disciples of every caste. Caste-distinction is inadmissible according to the tenet of the Rāmānandīs. They say there is no difference between the *Bhagavān* and the *Bhakt*. Śankara and Rāmānuja wrote treatises and the expositions on religious texts in Sanskrit, whilst the followers of Rāmānānda wrote these in provincial dialects

Of his twelve famous disciples the following four stand prominent (1) Nābhājī who wrote the *Bhakta Māla*, (2) Suradāsa and (3) Tulsīdāsa who have many religious poems and verses, and (4) Jayadeva who composed the *Gīta-govinda*

3 *Kabīra Panthis*

Kabīra was one of the twelve disciples of Rāmānānda.

He assailed boldly the whole system of idolatrous worship, ridiculed the learning of the pandits and attacked the Mullā and the Qurān. Some account of his birth and life is found in the *Bhakta Māla*. Kabīra in order to avoid persecution said,—

सबनं यहू खिय सबसे मिलिये सबका खोजिये नाह' ।

हंजी हंजी सबसे खोजिये बसिये अपने गाह ॥

“According to them life is the gift of God, and must not therefore be violated by his creatures. *Humanity* is consequently a cardinal virtue, and the shedding of blood, whether of man or animal, a heinous crime.

Truth is the other great principle of their Code, as all the ills of the world and ignorance of God are attributable to original falsehood.

Retirement from the world is desirable, because the passions and desires, the hopes and fears, which the social state engenders are all hostile to tranquility and purity of spirit, and prevent that undisturbed meditation on man and God which is necessary to their comprehension,”

4 *Khākīs*

Kīla was the founder of this sect. This division of the Vaiṣṇavas has come from Rāmānanda. They besmear their bodies with clay and ashes and wear jaṭā or braided hair.

5 *Rudra Sampradāyas or Vallabhācāryīs*

This was founded by Vallava Ācārya. The followers of the sect worship Bāla Gopāla and embrace all ranks of Hindu Society, specially the merchants and bankers of Gujrat and Malwa. Their temples and establishments are scattered all over India.

6 *Dādu Panthīs*

The founder of the sect was a disciple of Kabīra Panthī teachers and was fifth in descent from Rāmānanda Their worship consists in repeating the names of Rāma (*jaṇa*) They discourage image worship Dādu flourished about 1600 A D

The Dādu Panthīs are of three classes — *The Viraktas* the *Nāgās* and the *Bistara Dhārīn*

7 *Malūk Dāsīs*

Malūk Dāsa, the founder of the sect, was the immediate disciple of Kīla Bābā The Bhagavadgītā is their chief authority

THE ŚAIVA SECTS.

The Śaivas worship Śiva and Bhavānī jointly The following are the principal sects belonging to the Śaiva class.

1 *The Dandīs and Daśanāmīs*

The Dandīs carry a *danda* or wand and shave their hair and beard They wear only a cloth round their loins and subsist upon food obtained from the houses of Brāhmaṇas once a day They live near but not within a city. They wear *tripundra* made with the *Vibhūti* on their forehead

Any Hindu of the first three classes may become *Sannyāsīs* and *Dandīs*.

Sankara had four principal disciples—Pādmapāda, Hastāmalaka, Suresvarācārya and Troṭka Of these the first had two pupils, *Tīrtha* and *Āśrama*, the second, *Vana* and *Aranya*, the third, *Sarasvatī*, *Purī* and *Bhārati* and the fourth had *Giri*, *Parvata* and *Sāgara* These ten constitute collectively the appellation of Daśanāmī

2. The Yogins

The Yogīns are the followers of Gorakhnātha, whose traces are found in Gorakhkṣetra, at Peshawar and in the districts and town of Gorakhpur

“Gorakh” say the authorities of the sect, is but one of nine eminent teachers, of Nāthas There were eighty-four perfect *Yogins* or *Siddhas*

3 The Jangamas or Lingāyatas

The followers of the sect wear the emblem of linga on some part of the dress or person. They smear their forehead with *Vibhūti* and carry rosaries made of *rudrākṣa*

4 The Paramahansa

Vaikunṭha Purī, a dandī author, divides sannyāsis into four different classes,—*Kuticara*, *Bahudaka*, *Haṃsa* and *Paramahansa* The order is marked with the graduated intensity of self mortification and profound abstraction

Besides there are, *Aghori*, *Urdhabāhu*, *Ākāśamukhī*, *Nakḥī* *Sannyāsis* *Avadūtas* and others

THE ŚĀKTAS

Of the worshippers of Śakti, the Dakṣiṇas and the Vamīs or Vāmācārīs are famous The former offers *bhā* consisting of grain, milk and sugar and also kids to Devī The sect however is considered rather heterodox. The latter worships Devī in order to obtain supernatural power in this life. The form of their worship requires five *Makāras*.

मद्यं मांसञ्च मत्स्याञ्च मुद्रा मैथुनमेव च ।

मकारपञ्चकञ्चैव महापातकनाशकम् ॥

THE SAURAS

The followers of the sect worship only the Sun-god Their *tīlaka* is made with red sandal and they wear crystal necklace

They take their meal without salt on every Sunday and on each Saṃkrānti

THE GĀNAPATYAS

Gaṇeśa or Gaṇapati is their object of worship

MISCELLANEOUS SECTS.

The Śikhas or Nānakśāhīs are classed under several distinctions

- 1 Udāsins—They live in convents
2. Ganja Baksis
- 3 Rāmarayīs,
- 4 Suthrā Śāhīs—They are chiefly gamblers, drunkards and thieves
- 5 Govind Sūphīs —disciples of Guru Govind Singh, who was tenth in descent from Nānak The followers are of a worldly and war-like spirit
- 6 Nirmalas
- 7 Nāgas

The Jains

For the doctrines of the sect see “Jaina philosophy” *ante*.

EXERCISE

1 Name and characterise the principal Sanskrit lyrics 1910 P, 1932H.

2. Is there any evidence for any branches of Indian literature having been influenced by Greek literature? 1910H, 1925H

3 Trace the origin of Pañcatantra and indicate its relation to Æsop's fables 1911P

4 Discuss the the different methods of interpretation which have been applied to the Veda 1911H 1914H 1923H

5 Give a survey of Indian Ethical Poetry Quote any specimen you may remember 1911H, 1918P 1927P

6 Give a survey of Indian lyrical poetry with details as to either the Meghadūtī or Gīta govinda 1912 H, 1919H, 1920P, 1922P, 1925H.

7 Discuss the generic connection, if any, between the dramatic literature of India and that of Greece 1913P

8 Discuss the theory of Greek influence on the development of Indian drama 1910H 1928H

9 Discuss the age and authorship of Pañcatantra 1914P.

10 Name some of Indian works on astronomy and medicine. 1914P

11 The proneness of Indian mind to reflection found more abundant expression in poetry than the literature of any other nation that can boast—Justify the statement 1914H

12. Trace the development of Hindu Astronomy. 1915P

13 Sketch briefly the history of grammatical literature in Sanskrit. 1917P.

14 Give a critical survey of the fairy tales and fables in Sanskrit 1924H 1925H,

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15 What are the reasons for supposing that the Pañcatantra is derived from the Buddhistic sources 1926P

16 Trace the history of the migration of Indian fable into the world 1929P

17 State in brief what you know of the Bīhātkathā and other later recasts of this work 1929P

18 Write a note on the art of writing and the transmission of the Indian literature 1932P

19 Mention some three modern anthologies of Sanskrit gnomic poetry with their characteristics 1936H

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